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Ramon coming back to Labor - Zvilli

Procedural hurdles to be lifted today

SARAH HONIG

HISTADRUT Chairman Haim Ramon is on his way back to Labor, party secretary-general Nissim Zvilli told members of the party's political bureau yesterday afternoon.

He said "speeded up negotiations are now under way" and "results can be expected by the end of the month."

This morning, Zvilli is due to formally announce that most of the procedural hurdles to Ramon's return have been lifted and that the letters of expulsion sent to Ramon and MKs Amir Peretz and Shmuel Avital are soon to be rescinded, possibly in two weeks.

This has been one of Ramon's basic conditions for rejoining Labor. The three were expelled last year, when they challenged the Labor Histadrut ticket - which they then handily defeated. However, the three have not been removed from the Labor Knesset faction.

Ramon declined to comment, but those close to him indicated he is not fully satisfied with the various legal obstacles have been dealt with. He is said to think that all Zvilli is about to do is issue a declaration of intent to rescind the letters.

The actual cancellation of the expulsion would require amending Labor's constitution. This is a complex task, as the precedent could be exploited by other potential rebels, such as Avigdor Kahalani and Eli Dayan.

Zvilli - who was one of Ramon's most implacable foes during the period which led up to the May Histadrut election and immediately following - told the Labor bureau he has conferred with Ramon several times in the past two weeks to work out an agreement.

"My impression is that Ramon is very interested in coming back," he said.

Bringing back Ramon is considered a public relations coup necessary to turn around the party's failing fortunes and raise morale.

It is not clear whether a Ramon return would automatically mean his return to the cabinet, as his Histadrut position is seen as more powerful than most ministerial posts.

Besides the problems surrounding the demand that the expulsions be rescinded, there are other difficulties.

Ramon is demanding the party conduct open primaries for its next slate of Knesset candidates. This would make anyone eligible to vote, not only party members. It would also require central committee approval, which is far from certain, especially as the party is disenchanted with primaries altogether.

Ramon is seeking to regain control of the Histadrut, which would entail a merger with Ramon's Ram faction. The hitch is that Ram is not comprised solely of Labor defectors; it includes sizable Meretz and Shas components.

One possible way of resolving the problem was recently suggested by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who spoke of an alignment between the two factions. There has been stiff opposition to this, however, from both Meretz and Shas.

One of Ramon's chief boosters in Labor, MK Haggai Merom, argued yesterday that "Zvilli's vague declarations of intent are insufficient. What is needed is a specific, unequivocal decision to cancel the expulsion and employ ad hoc constitutional amendments to rescind the letters. Once Ramon is back in Labor, negotiations can begin on the Histadrut faction and primary issues."



Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat leave their meeting yesterday at the Erez checkpoint. (Reuters)

Syria said willing to forge ties after initial Golan withdrawal

DAVID MAKOVSKY

SYRIA is reportedly willing to establish at least a modicum of diplomatic relations with Israel after the first stage of a phased withdrawal from the Golan Heights, it was learned yesterday.

Until recently, Syria was insisting that any normalization with Israel would occur only after a complete withdrawal.

Syria apparently changed its view after President Hafez Assad met with US President Bill Clinton in October. It remains unclear whether Syria would establish consular links or something less than that after an initial withdrawal.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin wants the Syrians to establish full diplomatic relations after the first phase of withdrawal, in keeping with the pace of the 1979 Israel-Egypt peace treaty. The first stage of the two-phased Israeli

withdrawal from Sinai and exchange of ambassadors occurred approximately nine months after the peace treaty was signed.

During Clinton's visit to Damascus, differences also narrowed somewhat on the duration of the Golan withdrawal. Syria, which wanted Israel's withdrawal to be completed within several months, agreed that the Israeli pullback could take up to 18 months. Rabin has said that with

(Continued on Page 19)

Rabin-Arafat summit ends in deadlock

JON IMMANUEL

A PALESTINIAN Authority minister talked of a crisis; Israel denied it. But yesterday's Erez summit broke up in deadlock after PLO leader Yasser Arafat failed to persuade Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to lift the closure on Gaza.

Arafat scuttled a planned joint press conference and avoided reporters on his way out of the liaison offices at the entrance to the Gaza Strip.

"I think it is a crisis," Information Minister Yasser Abed-Rabbo told reporters at an impromptu meeting. But on this, as on other issues, there was no agreement.

"I am not trying to say there are not differences, but I will by no means describe the meeting as a crisis. Nor is there a stop in the talks between us," Rabin told reporters.

Talks are to continue, and Rabin and Arafat are to meet again next Thursday.

"We are ready to keep the closure, on the one hand, and continue the negotiations, on the other, because we believe there should be no halt in the negotiations," he said.

Israeli officials, however, are concerned that yesterday's meeting will cast a shadow over Sunday's meeting of foreign ministers of Israel, Jordan, Egypt, the Palestinians, and the US in Washington. The US hopes to use the session to push regional cooperation.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid and Deputy Foreign Minis-

ter Yossi Beilin, who also attended the talks, shared Rabin's view. "We don't have the possibility of lifting the closure now, because we have solid information about possible terrorist events in the near future," Sarid said.

"I wish the security situation would be such that the closure could be lifted," Rabin said.

Palestinians, though, have little understanding of Israel's need to keep them away after serious terrorist attacks. They simply consider the closure vindictive.

The Nablus-based Center for Palestine Research and Studies yesterday published a survey showing that 64.3 percent of Palestinians consider Rabin's "separation" plan "retaliatory and vindictive collective punishment."

Arafat tried to persuade Rabin the PA has taken serious measures against terrorism, saying the Palestinian Police had foiled several planned attacks, the latest being a suicide-bomber plot on Wednesday night.

The Palestinian Police has arrested more than 80 activists from Nayef Hawatmeh's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and 20 from Islamic Jihad this week, some in house-to-house searches. They closed down DFLP headquarters and the Islamic Jihad newspaper office.

However, Israeli security sources noted that the DFLP is a soft target, and that few Hamas members have been arrested. They even suspect that Hamas, which initially claimed responsibility, not the DFLP, carried out

(Continued on Page 19)

Levine denies soldier killed by friendly fire

ALON PINKAS

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amir Levine last night denied that Maj. Khawan Hamad was killed by friendly fire during a battle with Hizbullah gunmen on December 19.

He also denied that the truth was withheld from Hamad's family.

According to an article by Mordechai Alon in today's issue of the Haifa newspaper *Kol-Bo*, Hamad was killed by mistake by IDF soldiers carrying out "kill verification."

This often-criticized practice has been devised to prevent wounded enemy gunmen from shooting IDF soldiers at close range, as the soldiers allegedly "verify" their targets are dead by shooting them again before approaching.

(Continued on Page 19)

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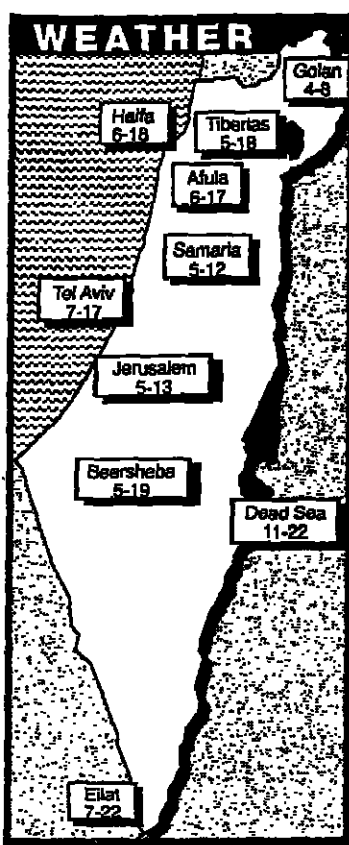
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Haifa	4:53	5:57
Beersheba	5:00	5:59
Eilat	5:04	6:03

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AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	C	F	Cloud
Amsterdam	4	8	4	39	cloudy
Berlin	3	7	3	37	cloudy
Buenos Aires	15	20	15	59	cloudy
Caracas	24	28	24	75	cloudy
Chicago	12	16	12	53	cloudy
Copenhagen	4	8	4	39	cloudy
Frankfurt	5	9	5	41	cloudy
Geneva	6	10	6	43	cloudy
Helsinki	3	7	3	37	cloudy
Hong Kong	18	22	18	64	cloudy
London	6	10	6	43	cloudy
Los Angeles	12	16	12	53	cloudy
Madrid	10	14	10	50	cloudy
Moscow	1	5	1	34	cloudy
New York	11	15	11	52	cloudy
Paris	8	12	8	46	cloudy
Rome	9	13	9	48	cloudy
Stockholm	4	8	4	39	cloudy
Sydney	16	20	16	61	cloudy
Tokyo	10	14	10	50	cloudy
Turkey	12	16	12	53	cloudy
Vienna	5	9	5	41	cloudy

Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the eight of spades, ten of hearts, jack of diamonds, and jack of clubs.

In last night's weekly Payis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 038794 won NIS 1 million, while ticket number 352131 was good for a car. Those holding tickets 851479, 211591, 756425, 891571, 609798, 503964, 559981, and 800672 all won NIS 5,000. Tickets ending in 40788, 60272, 80255, 59277, 51354, 05019, 27452, 73653, 64542, 94797, 34050, 41873, 67176, 02393, 05716, 73712, 15056, 21310, and 50037 all were good for NIS 1,000, while those holding tickets ending in 342, 338, 860, 430, and 098 won NIS 100, in 56, 00, 13, 51, and 59 NIS 24, and in 5 or 3, NIS 8.

EU visit to Orient House 'reconfirms position on J'lem'

BILL HUTMAN

PALESTINIAN leaders in Jerusalem met European foreign ministers at Orient House to discuss the peace process yesterday, despite government threats to prevent such talks in Jerusalem.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, German Secretary of State for European Affairs Hans-Friedrich von Ploetz, and Spanish Secretary of State Carlos Westendorp "told us their visit to Orient House is a reconfirmation of their position on Jerusalem," said Ghassan Khatib, of the Palestinian Peoples Party.

Khatib said he understood the three to mean that they support the Palestinians' claim to eastern Jerusalem. The European ministers declined to comment after the meeting.

Government leaders had said they were allowing the meeting, because it was "a courtesy visit." However, the Palestinian participants made clear that it was a "working meeting."

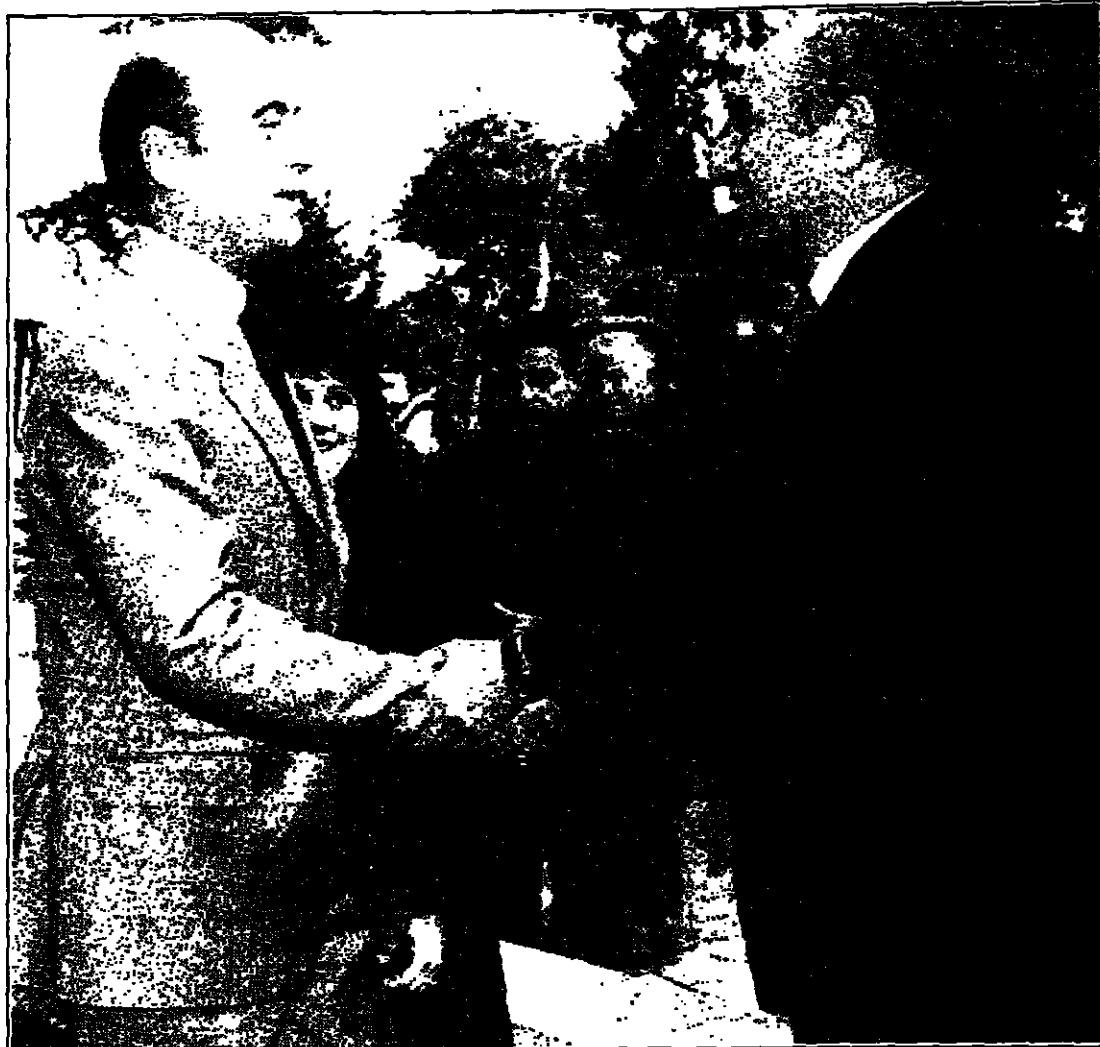
"We raised with them what we saw as the main threats to the peace process - settlement expansion, including in Jerusalem, and the delays in the [IDF] redeployment," Khatib said after the meeting.

"They reiterated their commitment to the peace process, and said that they, too, believe the settlements are an obstacle to peace," Khatib said.

The European leaders promised continued aid for Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem. Khatib said. Detailed discussion of aid to the Palestinian Authority was left to Palestinian leaders in Gaza, he added.

The Palestinian delegation was led by Faisal Hussein, and included Khatib, Ziyad Abu Ziyad, Nabil Kassis, Mahdi Abdul Hadi, and Zahir Kamal.

The police kept their distance during the meeting, allowing Pal-



French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, left, is greeted by Faisal Hussein outside Orient House yesterday. (Brian Headler)

estinian guards to provide security for the visit.

"It was a working meeting," Hussein said. He said the PA was not discussed, as the Oslo Accord limits discussions on PA business to the autonomous areas of Jericho and Gaza.

"I do not understand why the Israelis are so angry about this meeting," Hussein said. He vowed similar meetings with foreign leaders would continue at

Orient House.

Hussein said Orient House "is the home of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, as it has been since before Oslo."

"We are not part of the Palestinian Authority," Abu Ziyad said. "In Gaza they talk about national authority. Here we talk about the peace process in general, and not about Gaza."

"I don't understand why the Israelis are making a big fuss

about this meeting. [Similar meetings] happened in the past, and the Israeli government accepted it, and even supported it," Abu Ziyad said.

Several dozen members of the Women in Green protested the visit.

"How dare you disregard the laws of Israel, your host, and come to Orient House?" they asked in an open letter to the ministers.

High Court: 'Pareve' meeting at Orient House is OK

EVELYN GORDON

A PETITION against yesterday's meeting between European Union officials and Palestinians at Orient House raised questions worthy of further examination, but did not merit an injunction against the meeting, Supreme Court Justice Eliahu Mazza said yesterday.

"If there can be a 'pareve' [non-political] meeting like this, the feeling is that the law is not so necessary," he said. "If there is a law, it must be given some kind of meaning, and the law says meetings like this should not take place."

The petition, filed late Wednesday evening by the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, argued that the meeting violated the new Gaza-Jericho Implementation Law, which forbids any "political or governmental activity" by the Palestinian Authority in Jerusalem.

Attorney David Ronen, representing the petitioners, said yesterday's meeting was clearly political in character, because Faisal Hussein - one of the participants - sits on the PA's council, and is listed in the Palestinian phone book as a minister without portfolio in the authority.

"The very fact the meeting is occurring gives it a political character, even if they just drink coffee," he argued. "The European troika doesn't come to drink coffee with me. They drink coffee with special people."

In response, head of the Justice Ministry's High Court division Nili Arad said there was no proof that the meeting would be politi-

cal. As of the time of the hearing, it was not even clear Hussein would participate, she said, and the Europeans had promised that no political matters would be discussed.

"This is a courtesy visit," she said. "And out of courtesy, we are obligated to believe [the Europeans'] declaration [that it will be non-political]."

Arad also argued that the law gives the government the right to approve even political meetings if it chooses, while Ronen argued that it categorically forbids all such meetings.

Mazza agreed with Arad that because there was as yet no proof that the law was being violated, there was no reason to issue an injunction.

"But [the petition] nevertheless raises a question regarding the correct interpretation of the new law, which is worthy of further examination," he said. "Specifically, what is the extent of the police minister's discretion [in terms of allowing a meeting]?"

"This is the type of petition that by its nature is either premature or too late," he added. "Therefore, it's the type of petition that is worth discussing even without connection to a specific event."

Mazza said he was willing to issue a show-cause order - which shifts the burden of proof from the petitioner to the state - on the spot. However, Arad objected strenuously, so he agreed that another hearing would be held before three justices to discuss the issuing of such an order.

EU leaders urge lifting of closure

DAVID MAKOVSKY and news agencies

EUROPEAN Union leaders yesterday urged Israel to lift the closure on the territories, after meeting PLO officials in Jerusalem despite Israeli objections.

After meeting separately with PLO chairman Yasser Arafat and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the delegation's leader, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, said: "The closure of the territories is not a solution... It's necessary now to reestablish a climate of confidence in order to cancel such measures which are counterproductive."

Juppe warned that a breakdown of the peace process would be catastrophic for the region and for international stability.

"The talks should continue. Be assured that we would stand by you," Juppe said.

Juppe, whose country holds the rotating EU presidency, was joined by Germany's Secretary of State for European Affairs Hans-Friedrich von Ploetz, Secretary of State Carlos Westendorp of Spain, and EC Commission vice-president Manuel Marin.

Meanwhile, Rabin made it clear he was displeased with the delegation's visit to Orient House in Jerusalem. In a statement released by Rabin's office after his meeting with the EU officials, he said the meeting at Orient House "did not contribute to European-Israeli relations."

Rabin also called on Europe to provide more assistance to the Palestinians. The EU has pledged the Palestinians \$400

sixth of the total international aid package. Juppe said that \$117 million have already been spent on education and health.

The premier also complained about the proposed trade agreement planned with the EU, saying as currently devised, the agreement does not do enough for Israeli companies seeking to compete in European governmental procurement contracts, or for Israeli agriculture.

Government ministers said the agreement does not make a dent in Israel's ballooning \$7.4 billion trade deficit with Europe.

Regarding ongoing negotiations on upgrading Israel's status with the EU, Juppe said the EU is "prepared to do with Israel things which we have never done with any other non-member." "But Israel must appreciate that... Israel will be a partner in the union, and not a member," he added.

A participant in the Rabin meeting with the delegates said Juppe pledged he would try his best to ensure that Israel be admitted as observers in the EU's science planning panel for research and development projects relevant to Israeli concerns.

In a meeting on Wednesday night, Israeli officials assured the Europeans that the government would release Gaza-bound computers, automobiles, and hospital equipment shipped from Europe and being held at Ashdod Port, without demanding customs duties.

US Navy searching for bomb on ship bound for Israel

DAVID MAKOVSKY and HILLEL KUTTLER

THE US Navy is searching an Israel-bound ship at sea for a terrorist bomb, a US Embassy official in Tel Aviv said yesterday, following a phone threat by a man claiming to represent an unknown Islamic terrorist group that planted it.

The caller phoned *The Jerusalem Post* Wednesday night, saying a group called "the Basics of the Islam" based in "Palestine"

had planted a "sophisticated, magnetic bomb" on the *Liberty Wave*, which left Galveston, Texas, a week ago Wednesday. He urged that people on the ship be evacuated within two days, before the bomb is set to explode.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation also said it is acting on the matter, following the tip provided by the *Post*.

"Right now, it's an ongoing thing," an FBI source said yesterday. "I can't say anything yet. We're not doing anything, I'll say that."

The source said an FBI agent from the agency's New York task force met yesterday with officials of Liberty Maritime Corporation, a Long Island company that owns the *Liberty Wave*.

However, he would not say what steps the FBI had taken to secure the ship. A spokesman for the FBI's Washington headquarters would only say the agency "takes all terrorist threats seriously."

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Labor: Rabin willing to give up more of Golan than before

LIAT COLLINS

LABOR party members yesterday said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had "given them to understand he would be prepared to pull back to the international border" on the Golan Heights.

They were speaking after Ma'ariv reported Rabin had stated that pulling back from 98% of the Golan could not be considered withdrawing from the Golan.

Although MKs yesterday said Rabin had not given a figure, he had told his faction at a meeting earlier this week: "For me staying on the ridge [in the southeast Golan near Ein Gev and Hama] is also staying on the Golan. Withdrawing 'on the Golan' is not the same as withdrawing 'from the Golan' and would not constitute a violation of Labor's election platform."

"He had definitely given the impression he was willing to consider a far greater pullback than he'd ever said before," said one MK.

The faction was discussing Labor MK Avigdor Kahalani's bill, which calls for a public referendum to approve withdrawal from the Golan. Rabin has openly attacked Kahalani for the bill.

NATIONAL PARK HAZOR

The museum at National Park Hazor will be closed to visitors from 10:00 until further notice. Due to this inconvenience visitors to National Park Hazor will be offered a discount to the adjacent Kurazin National Park.

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Last of land promised to Jordan returned

DAVID RUDGE, AMIR ROZENBLIT, and news agencies

SOME 4,800 dunams (1,200 acres) of land were officially returned to Jordanian sovereignty in two ceremonies yesterday, near Moshav Tzofar in the Arava in the morning, and later at Naharayim in the Jordan Valley.

At the latter event, Jordanian and Israeli officials also signed three agreements relating to security arrangements, military cooperation, tourism, and border crossings.

The earlier, more modest ceremony was delayed for a time when a Jordanian officer pointed out that the Israeli flag displayed at the event was larger than the Jordanian flag. An Israeli officer immediately had the Israeli flag replaced with a smaller one.

King Hussein toured the land returned yesterday, and expressed optimism.

"I am very hopeful of the period ahead, a period of consolidation," the king told reporters. "The possibilities are limitless."

Hussein stressed that the peace treaty was negotiated without outside involvement.

"We faced up to our responsibilities and we hope that the other

ers will do the same," he said. "I hope they will achieve what we have achieved and we will all have peace in the region."

The return of the land to Jordanian sovereignty, in accordance with the terms of the peace treaty, also marked the conclusion of the redeployment of IDF and Jordanian forces along both sides of the new border.

Under the terms of the agreement, Israeli farmers will be able to continue cultivating the land for at least the next 25 years.

Dozens of Jordanians, led by members of the joint committee that ironed out the agreements, as well as journalists and local council officials attended the ceremony at Naharayim.

The head of the Jordanian delegation to the joint committee, Dr. Hamdi Mulki, praised the wisdom and courage of King Hussein and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin "in making this day possible."

"In peace there are no losers, as peace and tranquility are for all of us to maintain and cherish. Jordanians and Israelis share dreams of leading a decent life

and securing a prosperous future," said Mulki.

His Israeli counterpart, Elyakim Rubinstein, said the salute and shaking of hands between IDF and Jordanian Army officers at the ceremony was in itself a symbolic gesture of peace and hope for the future.

The ceremony was attended by dozens of people from the region, including members of Kibbutz Ashdot Ya'acov Meuhad and Ashdot Ya'acov Ihud, which farm the land at Naharayim.

Youngsters from area kibbutzim also handed "peace letters" to Jordanian officials, which they asked to be given to children in the village of Bakura on the Jordanian side.

"I usually like to receive land, not to give it back, but if we look closely at this agreement, I believe it is something we can live with," said Jordan Valley Regional Council head Ze'ev Shore.

Kibbutz members will receive special tags that will enable them to cross the new border to reach their fields and orchards.

Similar arrangements will prevail at Tzofar, where residents said they had begun getting to



Schoolgirls use Israeli and Jordanian flags to pen 'peace' in Hebrew and Arabic on the dust-covered rear window of a Jordanian army van during the ceremony yesterday marking completion of the land transfer.

know their new neighbors once it was determined that some of their fields would be handed over.

Yair Cohen, a moshav farmer,

said that friendships, or at least good neighborly relations, were beginning to develop. Several senior Jordanian officers manning a post near Tzofar have visited the

moshav, he said. "The friendship with the Jordanians has been going on for several weeks now," Cohen said. "We are transferring these lands

with much hope for continued cooperation. We are not sad. On the contrary, the children of the moshav bring the Jordanian soldiers flowers."

Prisoners vanish into thin air

RAINE MARCUS

THREE prisoners escaped yesterday from the Tel Aviv Courthouse lockup through a ventilation grid.

Last night police were still hunting for the three - Hen Al-fassi, Michel Saissa, and Nissim Bigami - who are awaiting trial for a series of armed robberies in the Gush Dan region.

They had attended a court hearing earlier, where they were remanded until trial, and were waiting in the cells, situated below ground, to be taken back to the Abu Kabir lockup. They were in one cell with a fourth prisoner, whose escape was foiled by a police guard.

Police said the four managed to remove a metal grille from the cell window and made their way to a long row of ventilation outlets. Pushing the grid upwards, they climbed out to freedom.

Every day, families and friends of remand prisoners can be seen shouting to their loved ones through the grid, situated on the pavement just a meter away from a main entrance to the court room, and opposite a large parking lot. But in broad daylight yesterday, nobody apparently saw anything.

The security guard seated at the entrance to the court building who checks visitors for weapons said he saw nothing. "It's not my job to keep an eye out for escaped prisoners," he said.

Tel Aviv deputy police chief Dep.-Cmdr. Shlomo Turgeman has ordered an inquiry to determine how the escape - the first of its kind from the court cells - occurred. By last night the grid had been secured with a large padlock.

Sanbar-Grofman feud worsens

Jerusalem Post Staff

THERE was further unpleasantness yesterday between Bank Leumi Chairman Moshe Sanbar and Shlomo Grofman, managing director of Africa-Israel, the bank's real-estate subsidiary, Israel Television reported last night.

According to the broadcast, Sanbar submitted a report three weeks ago to the bank's board of directors, that said Grofman sold an apartment in Holon in 1982 to a subsidiary of the bank, received the full purchase price before the contract was signed, and continued to live in the apartment for three years rent-free.

According to the report, the transaction was neither reported to the stock exchange nor to the Securities Authority.

Bank Leumi issued a statement saying that its board had discussed the issue in 1987 and decided to take no further action.

Sanbar resigned as Africa-Israel's chairman earlier this week, citing the ongoing friction between him and Grofman.

NPT feud overshadows summit; Christopher says Arafat more forthcoming

HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON

EFFORTS to hammer out a joint statement for Sunday's foreign ministers' summit here are being complicated by the Israeli-Egyptian feud over the latter's demand that Israel sign the international Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Israeli officials said last night the US hopes to have Sunday's communiqué include a statement about regional cooperation on non-proliferation.

"They really want it to appear

in the joint statement," an official said.

Last week's meeting between foreign ministers Shimon Peres and Amr Moussa seemed to have toned down the Israeli-Egyptian rift over NPT in advance of the Jordan-Israel-Egypt-PLO summit in Cairo. As a result of the Peres-Moussa meeting, the Cairo communiqué commended President Hosni Mubarak's efforts to rid the region of weapons of mass destruction and said the parties

would "pursue a mutually verifiable zone" free of such weapons.

But Moussa has stated recently that Egypt would not agree to the joint statement Sunday that includes a condemnation of terrorism unless Israel committed to sign the NPT.

"What's clear is that we and the Americans want to see the summit - the atmosphere, the

joint statement - be successful," the Israeli official said. "Moussa's statements aren't exactly helpful, but rather are inflaming the situation."

But a senior administration official said that while not "everybody has similar views here," the US believes the matter "won't be a problem."

Meanwhile, Secretary of State

Warren Christopher told a Jewish group Wednesday night that PLO chairman Yasser Arafat has been "much more forthcoming in his actions and his statements" about cracking down on terrorism.

Nevertheless, "there is a lot more he can do," including condemning terrorism in his Arabic statements, a participant in the meeting reported Christopher as telling the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

The meeting was also attended by Assistant Secretary for Near East Affairs Robert Pelletreau and US peace team members Dennis Ross and Aaron Miller.

Christopher said he is more satisfied than he had previously been with Arafat's commitment to act against those who have attacked Israelis, the source said.

Christopher also told the group the administration continues to press Syria to evict terrorist groups from its territory.

Supreme Court distinguishes between aiding and abetting suicide

EVELYN GORDON

THE Supreme Court yesterday overturned the conviction of a 70-year-old woman who tried to help her boyfriend, 68, commit suicide. It said the crime of assisting a suicide entails not merely trying to help, but succeeding in hastening death.

However, it convicted her on the lesser charge of attempting to abet a suicide. Her sentence was therefore only reduced from three years to 18 months. However, due to her age, she was given a month's grace period to apply for a pardon before serving her sentence.

Mina Kruglitz began living with Yafim Lieberman in 1989. Lieberman suffered from both Parkinson's disease and heart

trouble, and his poor health led him to attempt suicide several times. He also repeatedly begged Kruglitz to help him, and eventually she gave in.

In May 1991 she bought a bottle of rat poison, and gave Lieberman a mixed dose of the poison and sleeping pills. She also refrained from summoning help as his condition worsened during the night, and when a friend who dropped by for a chance visit the next morning called an ambulance, she failed to tell the doctors about either the poison or the sleeping pills. Lieberman died later that day.

Tel Aviv District Court convicted Kruglitz of abetting a suicide. However, Justices Mishael

Cheshin, Aharon Barak, and Elinhu Mazza all said there is reason to doubt that Kruglitz's actions actually caused Lieberman's death. In a split decision, they ruled she could not be found guilty of abetting a suicide, even though she was guilty of trying to do so.

The factual doubt as to the effect of Kruglitz's actions stemmed from a number of factors. While none of the expert witnesses had personal experience with the type of poison used, they put a fatal dose somewhere between 2.92 grams and five grams. However, the entire bottle of poison pellets contained only about one gram of poison, and it is likely that Lieberman actually swallowed only about one-sixth of this quantity.

Furthermore, the symptoms revealed by the pathological examination, though consistent with the effects of poison, were also consistent with a worsening of Lieberman's existing health problems - and there was no evidence of several symptoms specific to poisoning.

Therefore, the justices said, though it is clear that giving a man in Lieberman's state of health a mixed dose of poison and sleeping pills, and then failing to summon aid, would not contribute to his well-being, it is not clear that it actually caused his death. The sleeping pills themselves, they added, appeared not to have been intended to cause death; they were merely intended to make the effects of the poison less unpleasant.

Presidents' Conference may name Sephardi chief

HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON

THE Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations is poised to name its first-ever Sephardi leader.

Meeting here on Wednesday night, the conference's nominating committee selected Leon Levy, a New Yorker, to become

chairman beginning in June.

Conference members must still vote on the nomination when it meets next month, but "it's very unusual that a candidate does not get elected," the conference's top professional, Malcolm Hoenlein, said yesterday.

Israel Airports Authority

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The closure stays

NOT surprisingly, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin refused in his meeting with Yasser Arafat at the Erez checkpoint yesterday to lift the closure of the territories and release Palestinian terrorists from prison. The latest murder of an Israeli in Gaza, under the noses of the Palestinian Police, ruled out such a gesture. It is clear that, at this point, most Israelis would deeply resent the resumption of free movement from the territories. And Rabin is too aware of his position in the polls to defy the public on this issue. Not only is Benjamin Netanyahu ahead of him by at least 14 points; even Rafael Eitan has a slight edge over him.

Before the lifting of the closure could be contemplated, Rabin said, he wants to see a sincere, effective effort by Yasser Arafat's regime "to apprehend the inciters, organizers, and operators of terrorists." One can only hope Rabin will not be fooled by the kind of arrests following terrorist strikes which Arafat's minister Nabil Shaath recently described as "nothing more than a show." Indeed, the suddenness with which the Palestinian Authority has announced the prevention of various planned attacks on Israeli targets makes one wonder if Arafat's effort will focus on inventing fiction or creating facts.

Nor should the general coolness of the Erez meeting obscure the fact that Arafat did extract one concession: he managed to convince Rabin

that the PA must have another 2,000 policemen. The police force, now numbering 15,000 men, is already twice the size the Cairo accord allows. And it may be that what enabled Arafat to get this concession was Rabin's own insistence that there should be only one armed force in the self-rule areas. Rabin may have been persuaded that a larger police force is needed to successfully tackle the Islamic and radical rejectionists. But the addition of 2,000 troops only increases the number of potential terrorists and the quantities of arms entering the Gaza District.

The Palestinians argue that the closure only increases suffering in the territories, pushing more Palestinians to the arms of Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and the radicals. But no nation can relinquish measures which enhance its citizens' security. Closure is not a form of collective punishment, but a preventive measure. It does make it easier to control and to prevent the infiltration of terrorists into Israel.

What Israel must now do to make such control more efficient and permanent is allow foreign workers, whose numbers should be limited only by market demand, to enter the country. Israel does not owe the Palestinians of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza a living, especially if it means risking Israeli lives. It does owe its citizens personal security. If that can be achieved best by depriving Palestinians of employment places in Israel, so be it.

Voyage of Discovery

ON a world plagued by wars, violence, overpopulation, and economic woes, it is not often these days we are moved to cast our eyes skyward for some good news. Such a moment of relief came this week, when the crews of the American shuttle and the Russian space station beamed down some magnificent pictures of their rendezvous in space.

It was a worthwhile reminder that, while in overcrowded cities and Third World battlefields, human endeavors fall far short of aspirations, there are still aspects of man's genius that give reason for hope to future generations. Steered by the first woman shuttle pilot and with a Russian former Mir cosmonaut on board, Discovery slipped into a graceful ballet around the Mir space station — "dancing in the cosmos" as shuttle commander James Wetherbee told Mir commander Alexander Vikorenko.

The encounter was the first major joint Russian-American operation in space since the end of the Cold War. Unlike isolated symbolic joint missions of the Soviet era, this week's trial is a first rehearsal for at least seven Shuttle-Mir dockings through 1997, which will start in June. The United States, Russia and other countries will start building an international space station in 1997.

In recent years the space programs have come in for severe criticism from various lobbies advocating that governments solve the earth's war and welfare problems before throwing billions into outer space. Their arguments

have often put the space explorers on the defensive, especially when they cite as justification mere "human spirit" or "sense of adventure." But there were, no doubt, long-forgotten purveyors of common sense who told Marco Polo to stay home and get a decent job or emigrants flocking to America to sort out Europe's problems first.

In polluted and overcrowded New Delhi and not far from India's space research center is a scientific office tasked with improving the bullcock cart. It is a heartening sign that the totality of that much-maligned "human spirit" is still around. It was impractical pure science, artistic fantasizing, and idle curiosity that brought us the best of the 20th century, down avenues that no practical planners could have imagined. The technology, teamwork, financing, and administration that launched Discovery and Mir belong to that rather dull, boring realm of expertise that is the stuff of our everyday lives.

But the total achievement is greater than the sum of its nuts and bolts, and that is a true metaphor of human progress. The awed voices of the astronauts, the emotions of international colleagues greeting one another in space, the serene image of the beautiful man-made Mir station balanced on the earth's horizon, the easy skill of Eileen Collins nudging Discovery into orbit — these are a measure of what drives mankind onward. It is not counted in dollars; neither is it discredited by a war in Chechnya or teenage violence in New York.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UNIQUE HORROR

Sir, — For a day or two, the media understood that Auschwitz is unique, its horror like no other, and that even now nobody really knows how to live with it. But a few minutes later, the uniqueness was already forgotten, for now it is Bosnia, Chechnya and many other places — all except the one country that has had to live with Auschwitz from the day of its birth, Israel. And still a few minutes later came the usual newscast that failed to mention that, of the two current "killers of the peace," Jewish settlers and Palestinian terrorists, one is actually killing people — Jews.

But if I thought it could not get worse, I reckoned without *Time*. "God of forgiveness, do not forgive these murderers of Jewish children here," Elie Wiesel could say no other words, and anyone could see how much they took out of him: he faced the uniqueness of the Holocaust. But *Time*, in its Auschwitz Anniversary Issue yet, got rid of it: it is not impossible but only "difficult to forgive." Thus Wiesel is instructed by *Time* that he did not try hard enough.

But this is only the beginning. Let anyone think that, after Ausch-

witz, Israel is the Jewish place to be, *Time* has this headline: "Fifty years after the Holocaust Jewish life blossoms in Eastern Europe." But the text that follows can only give cases of Gentile pro-Jewishness blossoming, and not a single case of Jewish ability to trust its permanence: some blossoming! And while asserting that Russian Jews positively "flock" to Berlin and Hamburg, the text does not find it worth mentioning that Israel, hard-pressed though the country is, has taken half a million.

There is just one Jew mentioned in the text whose Jewish life may be said to "blossom," and this is German: the one who, lest Hitler's wish to have Germany *Judenrein* be posthumously fulfilled, considers it his "duty" to live there. I happen to be the person who, some 25 years ago, formulated the Jewish duty of not giving Hitler posthumous victories. But I never thought that my formula would become the perverse "duty" of helping Germans, through a friendly Jewish presence in the country, to forget what was done by their grandfathers.

EMIL L. FACKENHEIM
Jerusalem.

SCURRILOUS AD

Sir, — Never in all my years of reading *The Jerusalem Post* have I come across such a scurrilous advertisement as the one you allowed to be printed in your issue of January 27.

The ad quotes from the diary of Moshe Sharett written in 1957 and from a speech by Ben-Gurion made in 1937. Both are irrelevant today. Moshe Sharett's predictions about Peres and the State of Israel proved totally wrong. Ben-Gurion's warn-

ing in 1937 that no Jew has the right to yield the rights of the Jewish People in Israel is irrelevant today. Both quotations belong in the ashcan of history.

Certain accommodations had to be made for survival and peace, but no Jewish leader, past or present, ever wanted to yield our God-given right to Eretz Yisrael.

DAVID SEGAL
Ramat Hasharon.

US INCOME TAX

Sir, — With the 1994 US income-tax filing season upon us, we would like to inform the many US citizens in Israel of the following:

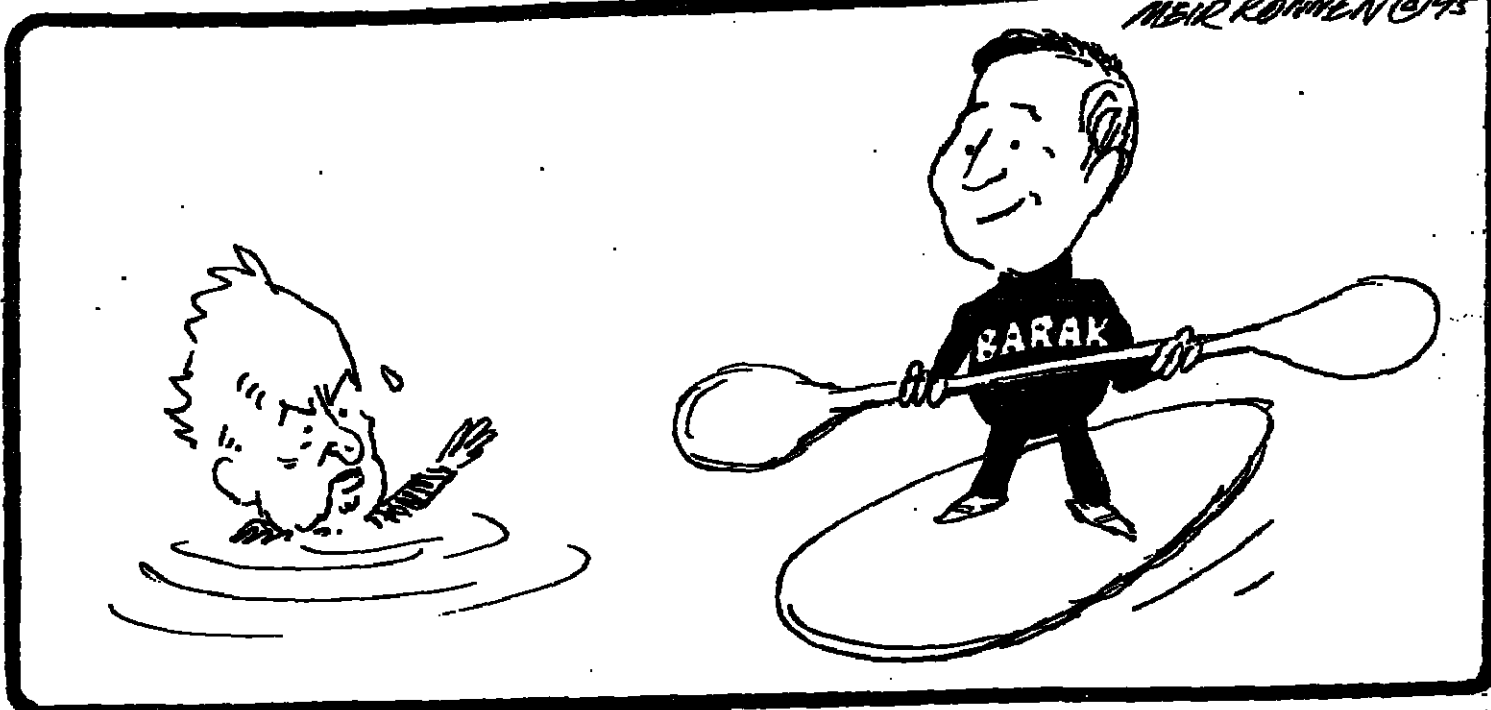
1) US statutes require all American citizens to file a US income-tax return on their total global income from all sources. Since \$70,000 of foreign-earned income is not taxable, filing for most here does not mean paying. Furthermore, sundry incomes are tax exempt.

2) If all income is derived from abroad, the deadline for filing is June 15. If any part of derived income, including pensions such as Social Security, is from the US, filing deadline is April 15.

3) A reciprocal tax treaty was signed and finally ratified by both Israel and the US and is in force for 1994 income-tax purposes. Of special interest are the clauses that pertain to pensions for the many retirees. Israeli pensions are not taxable in the US. Social Security income is not taxable in Israel and only in the US if the citizen's total income exceeds \$25,000 per annum.

4) Taxpayer assistance will be available as follows: February 13-14, US Consulate, 27 Nabulus Rd., Jerusalem. At the US Embassy, 71 Hayarkon St., Tel Aviv, February 17, 21 and 24. A refresher course on how to fill out tax forms will be sponsored by the AACI in Jerusalem and Haifa. For further information/assistance, contact AACI in Jerusalem, (02) 619252, in Haifa (04) 387140. Or you may contact the US Embassy. (03) 5170010.

DAVID FROELICH,
Secretary,
Democrats Abroad (Israel)
Rehovot.



Conquests that can't be held

ABBA EBAN

A paid advertisement emanating from San Francisco under the byline of an organization called Facts and Logic about the Middle East asserts that "without Judea/Samaria (the West Bank) Israel would be totally indefensible."

There is basic goodwill, but a total absence of factual logic in this statement. It is precisely the allegedly "defensible" post-1967 boundaries that have been almost impossible to defend. Israel was never more vulnerable than in the period after the 1967 military triumph. This vulnerability was attested in two concrete ways.

First, the cost in Israeli lives arising in large part from the enlarged configuration, was astronomical — even compared with the tragic losses of the past two years. Can we forget the 2,500 casualties in the Yom Kippur War, the 700 in the War of Attrition, the 650 in Lebanon and the constant toll from terrorism — which did not begin with the Oslo agreement, and which will certainly be aggravated if the Oslo agreement is annulled?

In addition to the crucial issue of Israeli casualties, the Suez-plus-Golan-plus-Gaza-plus-West Bank boundaries made generalized war not just probable, but inevitable. This was proved in 1973. A boundary that is profligate in loss of life and which makes war inevitable does not sound like a "security asset."

The paradox is that the public mood during the allegedly "good years" was absurdly buoyant. The sheer size of the Israeli jurisdiction on the maps gave a totally illusory impression of permanence and strength. The first reaction to the military victory was lucid. The doctrine was that we

had acquired assets that could ultimately be used for the negotiation of peace.

A nation is unlikely to succeed in negotiations if it has no ability to confer or withhold something that the adversary desires. This "negotiating" approach to the territories was expressed in the proposal of the national unity government in June 1967 to offer peace treaties to Egypt and Syria on the basis of the international

have nothing to offer except the renewal and intensification of the coercive jurisdictions from which the peace process seeks to secure Israel's release. A study of Likud proposals teaches us that no condition is so bad as to be incapable of becoming worse.

The 1967 war was sheer salvation, and I do not regret a single word that I spoke in describing our peril. ("Never was armed force used in a more righteous

Israel's wars fought from 'defensible' boundaries were less successful than those fought from 'indefensible' ones

boundaries, and to explore with Jordan the idea of restoring to that country most, though not all, of the West Bank.

The brutal rejectionism of the Arab states at Khartoum caused an understandable but premature despair of the chances of conciliation in Israel.

In September 1967 the doctrine that no Israeli government or parliament had competence to bargain with the captured areas gained its first insidious ground. Meanwhile, the sprawling expanse of the captured areas began to weigh upon the land like a grievous burden. It increased our losses and condemned Israel to a chronic loss of international support (which the maligned peace process has restored).

THIS WOULD be mere history were it not for the fact that those who oppose the peace process

cause.") But the passage of 27 years converted our conquests into a classic case of overextension.

Many empires and annexations have fallen victim to this disease. It seems to be impossible for an army to make territorial gains without politicians aspiring to perpetuate them beyond due limit.

The disease of overextension afflicted Napoleon in Moscow and brought his victories to naught. Overextension brought American generals to the Korean 38th parallel, from which they continued their dynamism northward, only to be thrown back by the Chinese. Happily for civilization, the German armies in two world wars overextended their forward thrust and incurred a well-merited nemesis.

Britain and France recognized that they were grossly overextended in their possessions and

moved briskly to remedy the resultant malaise. The French in Algeria, the Soviets in Afghanistan and the Americans in Vietnam had no choice except to correct their overextension by agreed withdrawals.

The whites in South Africa found that the burden of maintaining their rule over the entire area overextended their resources and powers until there was no course except to restore some balance between their capacities and their areas of rule. Egypt, by pushing forward toward Ashdod and Gaza, made Israel's victory in 1967 complete.

The wars that Israel fought from the allegedly defensible boundaries in 1973, 1982 and 1989 (the intifada) were conspicuously less successful than those fought from "indefensible" boundaries in 1948, 1956 and 1967.

When a boundary is established without regional consent and international acceptance, it tends to hang on a short-lease, and rarely becomes a scene of creative and tranquil life.

The Israel that conquered comparatively spacious territories in 1967 had an effective manpower of about a million and a half adults. Can Israel rationally keep its own turbulent house in order, while simultaneously ruling two million foreigners against their will, grappling with terrorists' assaults, welcoming mass immigration and striving to build a new Middle East?

The military victory of 1967 did not give us a chance of dictating the peace. The main argument for the peace process lies in the absence of viable alternatives.

The writer is a former foreign minister.

An emasculated giant called Israel

ARIEL SHARON

SIGNS of our internal disintegration are increasing. And the Arabs are aware of them too.

This week, Nabil Shaath told the London *Independent*: "Israel will be forced to agree to the return of 100,000 of the 1948 refugees to Galilee." Asked if the Israelis would really agree to this, Shaath, a minister in Yasser Arafat's government, replied: "It seems to me they will be forced to agree."

And Israel? It has no response. It remains mute.

Shaath's words need to be examined in the light of developments in relations between us and Israeli Arabs, who are actually Israeli Palestinians. We must remember that those Palestinians who are citizens of Israel wholeheartedly support the establishment of a Palestinian state whose capital is Jerusalem. At the same time, their direct involvement in terrorist activity against us today has decreased.

Since the "Night of the Pitchforks," when Israeli Palestinian disciples of the Islamic Movement from the area of Wadi Ara murdered Nahal soldiers near Kibbutz Galed, they have been more fearful and have changed direction. The number of attacks they have carried out is very small.

But activity by the Islamic Movement, which is closely connected with Hamas in Jerusalem and in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, has increased.

Islamic Movement members are Hamas's partners on a day-to-day basis. A large portion of the money collected for Hamas around the world passes through the Islamic Movement in Israel to its destinations in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, ultimately reaching

the murder gangs. The same happens with stolen weapons, in which some of Israel's Arabs have been trading.

The Islamic Movement is raising funds and getting legal help in Israel for Hamas activists in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. It acts as an intermediary between Hamas and the PLO in Gaza, and, in

mainly Egyptian — on how to destroy Israel in stages have appeared in articles by leading figures in the Arab world, in senior academic circles, among the intelligentsia. One of the minds active in this context — indeed, the leader of this unofficial trend — is Osama el-Baz, President Mubarak's adviser.

The plan to dismantle the state is no secret, but the government stays mute

effect, helps Hamas in every way short of direct terrorist activity (with a few exceptions).

All this is done with extreme sophistication, under the cover of charitable, educational, sports and religious activities.

However, despite the fact that this link with Hamas poses a serious danger to our coexistence with Israeli Palestinians, Israel isn't doing anything beyond observing events, like a person stricken with paralysis.

"The law doesn't allow us to act," the government claims. But no one demands changing the law. It seems a futile exercise. The government itself recently passed a law permitting it to take action against PLO government offices in Jerusalem. But it has done nothing.

The PLO is laughing up its sleeve, and the European foreign ministers don't give a hoot.

And Israel, with all the power and justice on its side, looks like an emasculated giant.

THERE WAS no surprise in what Nabil Shaath said. For some years now, similar statements —

What are these circles thinking, and what are the different stages of their "program"?

● The first stage: portraying Israel as "rejecting peace," while the Arab world, including the PLO, desires it. This will deepen Israel's isolation and increase pressure on it. This has already taken place.

● In the second stage, Israel will be forced to embark upon difficult and painstaking negotiations in a process which, ultimately, will take it back to the 1967 lines. As a result, Israel will again be weakened, losing its defensive capability.

● The third stage will see the intifada moving from the "1967 model" to the "1947 model" and focusing mainly on Galilee, where most Israeli Arabs live. After a long and wearying struggle, Israel will also give up central Galilee and the northern and southern "triangles" (from Megiddo, through Wadi Ara, to Kfar Kassem, an area in which 250,000 Palestinian citizens of Israel live, most of them supporters of the Islamic Movement).

● The fourth and final stage: After the retreat to borders approximating the 1947 Partition Plan, these Arab circles think Israel's continued existence is strictly a question of time.

Shaath's declaration fits in well with this plan; it will, indeed, hasten its implementation.

Does all this seem like a fantasy? When I spoke and wrote about this some years ago, it appeared, even to me, to be no more than a nightmarish vision. But it is all actually happening before our eyes — chiefly thanks to the unstinting help of our government.

The writer, a Likud MK, is a former defense minister.

POSTSCRIPTS

CLIVE SABEL wasn't worried by the security situation here when he decided to make his first trip to Israel. The 26-year-old from Devon, England, spent his first day touring Jerusalem — and was promptly shot by a rubber bullet.

Sabel was strolling through the Old City when a minor brouhaha broke out between a few Arabs and about a dozen soldiers. Just as Sabel happened to walk by, the soldiers took action to quell the

problem, and he was hit in the chest.

After he recovered from the initial shock, he approached the soldiers to face his "attacker" and was surprised to see that the soldier was very young, very frightened — and still wielding a menacing bazooka-type gun. Sabel prudently left the matter at that and went on his way, already possessing his first two souvenirs: the rubber bullet, and a bad bruise.

Clive Sabel

A firm hand with Assad

CHAIM HERZOG

WE HAVE recently heard a growing chorus of foreign policy experts, Israeli and American, raising doubts about the sincerity of President Assad's approach to the peace process.

It is clear that Assad took fright when he realized that the peace train was picking up steam and he was being left behind.

This is what gave rise to his initiative to convene the Alexandria summit with President Hafez of Syria and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. What Assad was doing was looking for the best of both worlds: waging war while talking peace. But he suddenly found himself without anything to show for his ambiguity.

The return of the Syrian ambassador to Washington this week and the possible resumption of talks with Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich highlight, above all, Assad's discomfort at the doubts expressed about the seriousness of his intentions.

In this regard, the atmosphere in Israeli public opinion, which is closely monitored by Assad and which reflects growing fears and hesitations over a possible arrangement with Syria, is important. Assad has done little or nothing to assuage the doubts and fears of the Israeli public.

The Syrian leader needs to understand that the people of Israel

broken. It is thus vital that any arrangement have as a main element a built-in, drawn-out process, whereby every phase will enable the sides to face up to realities.

From a strategic point of view, it is essential too that the two sides agree on a period of years, which would enable Israel to evaluate the situation after Assad.

AS FAR AS the negotiations themselves are concerned, it is essential that Israel take into consideration the fact of Assad's ultimatum on the return of the Golan as his opening shot.

Against this, Israel must open with a parallel ultimatum, one emphasizing its vital security interest in retaining undisputed control of Lake Kinneret, a presence on Mount Hermon, and control of the part of the Heights that overlooks Israel.

There is an additional factor which has to be taken into consideration. Syria today has one of the largest armies in the world. Any agreement must include a provision for a meaningful reduction in the size of this army and in the weapons at its disposal.

This is one of the most important indicators of the success of a peace process; it is perhaps even more important than the deployment at any given time of the armed forces, which can be changed rapidly.

All discussions about negotiations with Syria tend to ignore the problem of who controls Lake Kinneret. Clearly Israel cannot agree to the Syrian army returning to positions on the shores of the lake. This would enable them once again to threaten Israel's control of its main water reservoir.

This is yet another compelling reason that emphasizes the importance of maintaining a position on the Heights. What we are engaged in is not, after all, an academic discussion on the pros and cons of different military approaches, but one which has a direct effect on the security and future of the country.

A possible US military presence shouldn't be rejected out of hand - provided it is seen as helping to create a quiet border between the two nations.

Syria must also be given an ultimatum that it expel the terrorist organizations of the so-called rejectionist from its territory. Assad could have done this at any time without any problem, but he and his henchmen have chosen to avoid the issue, coming up with all kinds of specious excuses.

The fact that Fathi Shikaki, head of the Islamic Jihad and the organizer of the Beit Lid massacre, runs his operation in Syria without any interference from Damascus is a blatant example of Syria's unacceptable approach to this problem.

Assad cannot go on enjoying the luxury of having it both ways: waging war against Israel, and making peace. As long as terrorist activities are mounted from Damascus, or Hizbullah operations from Syrian-controlled Lebanese territory, there is no room for compromise or any "understanding" of the Syrian leader's "problems."

We are negotiating with an obstinate and uncompromising leadership, and we must tread warily. We cannot afford not to react toughly. We must issue ultimatums.

After all, at this stage, Israel's cards add up to a stronger hand than Assad's.

The writer was Israel's sixth president.



History unclad

ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

SINCE its inception, Yad Vashem has been trying, with dignity, decorum and sensitivity, to tell the story that cannot be told. No picture, no words, no video, no movie, no book, no one single survivor's testimony can really convey the events it tries to portray.

Against this backdrop, the Knesset nevertheless mandated Yad Vashem in 1953 to take on this impossible task.

Some 20 million people from all over the world, non-Jews and Jews of every denomination who relate to the Holocaust as a unifying experience, have made the trip to

lives stood naked before anyone.

The pictures show, better than any words, the multilayered assault carried out against the Jews. Anyone seeing something sexual in these pictures is only exhibiting his own prudishness, even neurosis.

These rare photographs allow us searingly intimate access to what happened during the Holocaust. They convey, in a way that no statistic can, some of the tragedy, brutality and dehumanization that the Jews endured.

They are not on display for shock, let alone titillation. But the subject is inherently shocking. To hide or touch up the photographs would not only provide ammunition to Holocaust deniers; it would diminish our already feeble attempt to tell the story.

If that's how it happened, then that's how you show it. This historical nudity is historical reality.

While a point could be raised regarding respect for the dead, as well as for the viewer of the photos, it becomes invalid in light of the context in which it is presented. It also insults the intelligence of the visitor to Yad Vashem.

People go there with a particular, almost sacred, attitude to the subject, knowing they are going to see the horror of horrors. They've made that adjustment before going in, and that applies to the ultra-Orthodox as well.

Indecent, immodest? In the context of Yad Vashem, terms such as these are so faint as to seem totally inapplicable. Many exhibits are obscene, outrageous.

What about the crematoria? They are also the stark, unclad truth. No one would suggest they should be hidden.

We should be grateful for an exhibit that enables us, even partially, to identify with what was done to Jews by the Nazis.

The last thing we should be doing is "sanitizing" Yad Vashem.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff.

A sign of respect

AVRAHAM RAVITZ

THERE is a difference of opinion over whether photographs of naked women should continue to be displayed at Yad Vashem.

An issue that should have been handled with sensitivity and discretion was dealt with, on the one hand, by publicity-seeking individuals who claimed to be speaking in the name of the haredi community; and on the other, by anti-religious journalists and politicians who will seize any opportunity to attack the haredim. The subject is too important not to be taken seriously - and Yad Vashem's hasty reaction this week

We tend to forget that we are talking about real-life people, who had names, fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters.

The Holocaust wasn't an abstract concept. The people involved wore clothes, followed an occupation, and - most important of all - respected themselves and each other. It was only the Nazis who did not respect them.

How would we respond if someone recognized a brother or a sister in a picture, and asked us to respect the memory of his relative, his or her right not to be displayed naked for all the world to see?

Would we still argue that the public's right to know is more important than the feelings of the bereaved? And if no close relatives came and complained, because they too were murdered by the Nazis, aren't the victims the brothers and sisters of us all?

I also wonder whether displaying these pictures is the only way we can remember the acts of the Nazi beast. Would we display a picture of a Nazi using a Jewish girl to satisfy his lust? Surely we can remember how our sisters were raped and murdered and still not treat them with disrespect?

There is a final point. I want to remind the Yad Vashem directorate that the haredi sector is also part of Israeli society. For haredim, looking at pictures of naked bodies goes contrary to their beliefs.

Does Yad Vashem stand or fall by these pictures? Is there no way to make them more modest? Don't we want the haredi sector, too, to learn the many lessons Yad Vashem wants to impart, without feeling offended?

I do not agree with the way the subject was raised. I do not agree with the way Yad Vashem has been attacked. However, since the issue has already been publicly aired, I entreat Yad Vashem to give it further thought.

The writer, a United Torah Judaism MK, is the head of Degel Hatorah.

The last thing we should do is 'sanitize' Yad Vashem

Har Hazikaron to try to confront the incomprehensible, to try to learn what happened.

But now, suddenly after 25 years, something about that confrontation is wrong. A shot has been fired across Yad Vashem's bow, launched by the self-appointed skipper of the good ship *Haredi*, Haim Miller, deputy mayor of Jerusalem and head of a self-serving organization called the Association for the Rights of the Haredi Community.

Miller objects to a handful of photographs that show Jews naked, and has ordered Yad Vashem to cover the nudity or remove the photographs.

WHAT EXACTLY are these photographs that Miller finds so objectionable?

They are Nazi photographs of the *Einsatzgruppen* murdering the Jews of Liepaja, Latvia, in 1941. They show how these Jews were forced to undress before being shot, stripped of their dignity as well as their clothes. Their bewilderment is evident in the eyes of these modest women, who probably had never before in their

The women who were murdered by the Nazis had rights too

showed that they were not thinking the question through.

I see no justification in viewing the debate as a conflict between religious and secular. It is a clash between two rights: individual privacy against the public's right to know - in this instance, the public's obligation to know. We must remember what was done to us by the Amalek of modern times.

But the women who were murdered by the Nazis had rights too, rights the Nazis trampled over in every way they could, including photographing them in their nakedness.

THERE IS no doubt in my mind that had those victims been asked whether they would agree to photos of their naked bodies being displayed for everyone to see - even for educational purposes - they would have refused. The pictures show very clearly how the women attempted to cover their private selves with their hands, the way they tried to preserve the rudiments of modesty.

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Alleged ringleader of Trade Center bombing nabbed in Pakistan

LARRY NEUMEISTER
NEW YORK

THE Iraqi man portrayed as the mastermind of the World Trade Center bombing pleaded innocent yesterday after he was captured in Pakistan and secretly returned to New York.

Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, who fled the United States the night of the bombing two years ago, was arrested Tuesday at the Holiday Inn in Islamabad, Pakistan, officials announced Wednesday. He was brought to New York on a US government plane.

Yousef appeared calm and spoke fewer than 10 words during the brief appearance before US District Judge John F. Keenan. "I plead not guilty," he said in English, waving off an interpreter standing beside him.

The Iraqi-born Yousef, who lived most of his life in Kuwait, is charged with 11 counts relating to the bombing. The most serious charges are punishable by life in prison without parole. He told the judge he understood the indictment. The next appearance was set for Wednesday.

Yousef's assigned lawyer, Avraham C. Moskowitz, said he had met with him for only 30 minutes yesterday morning. He refused to

comment about where his client had been for the last two years or about the arrest.

"He's in remarkably good spirits considering the ordeal he's been through," Moskowitz said. "We were able to have a meaningful discussion of the charges." President Clinton called the arrest "a major step forward in the fight against terrorism."

Authorities say Yousef, who came to the United States and applied for political asylum in 1992, bought and mixed the chemicals for the bombs that exploded February 26, 1993, in a van parked under the 110-story twin towers, the world's second-tallest buildings.

The blast killed six people, injured more than 1,000, caused \$500 million in damage and heightened the fear of international terrorism in mainstream America.

Yousef, 27, escaped the night of the bombing, using an alias to fly to Iraq via Pakistan. His fingerprints were found on two

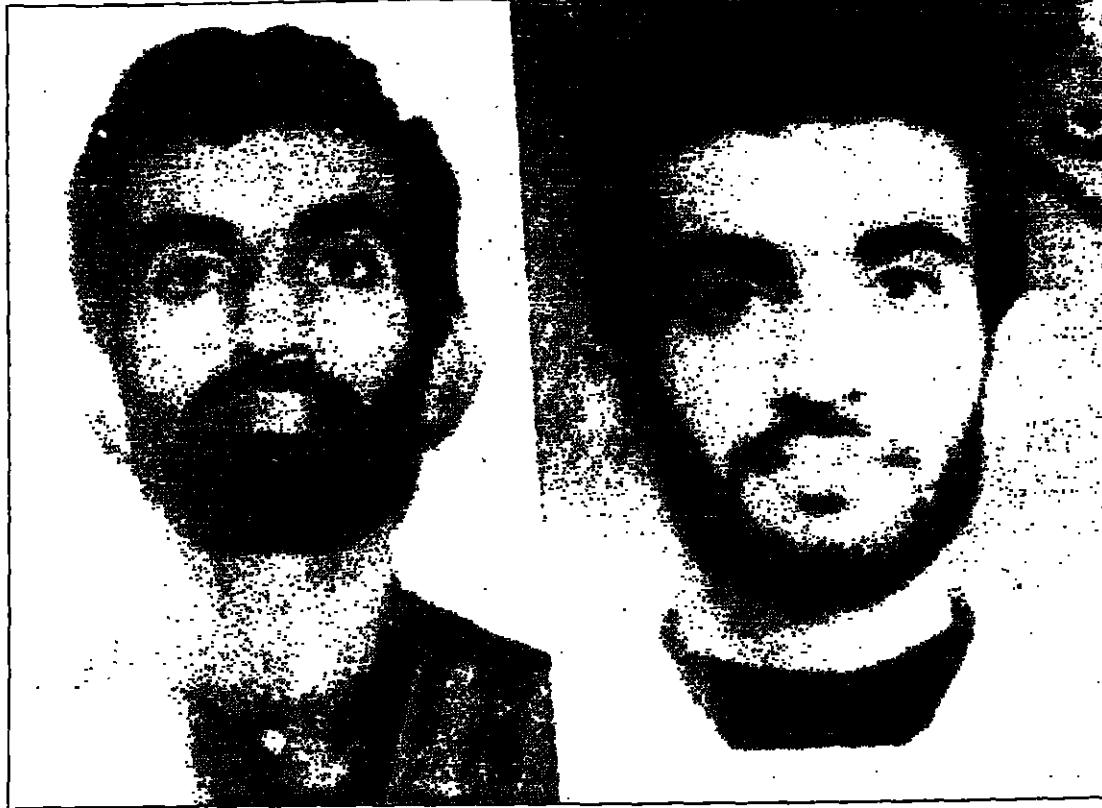
bomb-making manuals seized by authorities and on containers of bomb-making chemicals, authorities say.

Pakistan's Interior Minister, Nasirullah Babar, said Yousef flew into Pakistan on Sunday using the alias Ali Khan and staying at a Holiday Inn, according to a senior Pakistani official speaking on condition of anonymity.

The US State Department had posted a \$2 million reward for Yousef's capture. It was unclear if anyone would get the money.

Four men were convicted last March of carrying out the trade center bombing, and they received life sentences. Another suspect is still a fugitive; another pleaded guilty to a minor role.

Yousef's capture comes as 11 other men are on trial in New York, accused of plotting a campaign of urban terrorism designed to force the United States to change its policies in the Middle East. Prosecutors say the trade center bombing and the assassination of right-wing extremist Rabbi Meir Kahane were the opening salvos.



FBI photos of Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, the alleged mastermind of the Trade Center bombing (AP)

Yeshiva U. graduate represents Yousef

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

New York law firm Anderson, Kill, Olick and Oshinsky.

He also signed up for a "criminal justice act panel," through which private attorneys agree to represent indigent clients in criminal cases.

It's an interesting position, and not a simple one," Moskowitz said in an interview. Moskowitz, a 1977 college graduate of Yeshiva University, is a partner in the prestigious

AVI Moskowitz's number came up on Wednesday. He was assigned to represent Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, accused of masterminding the World Trade Center bombing.

terday morning. "I was on duty for court-appointed cases yesterday," he told the *Jerusalem Post*. "We live in a system where everyone's entitled to competent counsel," he said. "Not every case is attractive to a lawyer."

"If I continue with this case, which is a decision Mr. Yousef and I will be making, then I will do my job in that system professionally."

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Prosecutors: Kahane murder was salvo in war of urban terrorism

NEW YORK (AP) — A student who witnessed the assassination of Rabbi Meir Kahane recounted in detail on Wednesday the murder that prosecutors now believe was the opening salvo in a planned war of urban terrorism against the United States.

Ari Gottesmann, who witnessed the November 5, 1990, shooting in a Manhattan hotel, identified El Sayyid Nosair as the man who killed Kahane.

Trading icy stares with Nosair, Gottesmann gave a federal court jury virtually the same description of the killing that failed to convict Nosair of the murder in state court.

Nosair is now standing trial with 10 other Muslims accused of a much wider plan of terrorism to force the United States to change its policies in the Middle East, especially in Israel and Egypt.

The 11 men were allegedly led

by Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman in a plan to assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and bomb the United Nations, FBI headquarters and two tunnels and a bridge connecting New York and New Jersey. The February 26, 1993 World Trade Center bombing that killed two people and injured more than 1,000 others also is alleged to be part of the terrorism campaign.

The prosecution is presenting evidence about the Kahane killing and the Trade Center bombing so that jurors can connect the terror conspiracy to concrete acts, and not just to plans that never made it off the drawing board.

Gottesmann pointed to Nosair and said he was 100 percent sure he was the man who shot Kahane.

During a full day on the witness stand, Gottesmann told how he

went to watch Kahane speak in a midtown hotel and approached him afterwards during a question-and-answer period.

"Suddenly a gun was in my line of sight and it was going off," the 24-year-old student from Jerusalem told the jury.

"It sounded like two firecrackers, two very loud bangs. There were sparks and fire flying from the gun," he said.

Then, casting his arms above his head and falling back in the witness stand, he said, Kahane "went back with his arms up like this and blood fell down onto his shirt."

Asked to identify a photograph of Kahane on the ground, he said it depicted "Rabbi Kahane on the ground with blood pouring out of his neck or out of his head."

On cross-examination later, he told lawyer Roger Stavis he may have shouted, "Get the Arab," as he watched Nosair tuck the gun underneath his coat and try to escape.

Sinn Fein suspends talks

BELFAST (Reuters) — The IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, suspended peace talks with British officials yesterday when it detected a suspected bugging device in a room it uses for private consultations.

The two sides sealed off the room while police investigated, but British officials denied foul play and suggested a photocopying machine might have triggered an electronic scanner.

Prime Minister John Major's office gave a "categorical assurance" that no bug had been placed in the room at Stormont

Castle, outside Belfast, by anyone acting on the orders of the government.

But the incident forced the postponement of the meeting at a delicate phase in negotiations almost six months after the IRA called a cease-fire in its war against British rule of Northern Ireland.

"I think that if the room is being electronically monitored, that is a matter of serious concern," Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams told a hastily convened news conference at the party's West Belfast headquarters.

Frenchman, 42, swims the Atlantic

MIAMI BEACH, Barbados (Reuters) — A Frenchman completed a solo swim across the Atlantic when he reached the Caribbean island of Barbados yesterday nearly two months after setting off from the Cape Verde Islands off Africa.

Guy Delage, 42, walked out of the water and onto the sands of

Miami Beach at 7:45 a.m. after a 2,420-mile crossing plagued by mishaps.

"It has been difficult," he told French television TF1 after arriving on the beach, looking dazed and tired but saying he felt in good health.

Delage began his swim on December 16.

Quayle decides not to run in '96

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Vice President Dan Quayle has decided not to enter the 1996 presidential race because of his difficulties raising enough money for a viable campaign, a senior adviser said yesterday.

Quayle made the decision late Wednesday night and planned to issue a statement yesterday, said Mark Goodin, who helped Quayle prepare for the possibility of a campaign.

J. William Fulbright, 89

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — J. William Fulbright, an outspoken critic of the Vietnam War who played a key role in US foreign policy as head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for 15 years, died yesterday. He was 89.

French say antisemitism prevalent

PARIS (Reuters) — Nearly half the French believe antisemitism is somewhat, or even strongly, prevalent in their country, according to an opinion poll released on Wednesday.

The poll, for the Jewish weekly *Tribune Juive*, showed 11 percent of those polled believed antisemitism was strong in France and a further 38 percent said it was relatively prevalent.

About 44 percent of those polled said there was little or no antisemitism in the country. Seven percent had no opinion.

France, the first European nation to extend full citizenship to Jews more than 200 years ago, has a Jewish community of about 750,000 among a general population of 58 million.

The poll showed 60 percent of the public believed a Jew could become president of France compared to 33 percent who said this was impossible and 7 percent who had no opinion.

The poll said 96 percent of the public was shocked by the desecration of Jewish cemeteries, 91 percent were shocked by revisionists who deny Nazi gas chambers existed and 83 percent were shocked by borderline-type statements made by extreme rightist leader Jean-Marie Le Pen about Jews.

Serbs blast Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (Reuters) — Bosnian Serb forces besieging Sarajevo launched a mortar barrage towards government army positions in the city yesterday, rocking a truce that has held since January 1, UN officials and witnesses said.

Machine-gun fire rattled out soon after the explosions hit in the vicinity of the Jewish cemetery. The front-line separating the mainly Muslim government army and the Bosnian Serbs runs through the cemetery.

"What we know is that at about 5:30 (p.m.) there were eight explosions in the vicinity of the Jewish cemetery from the BSA (Bosnian Serb army) side. Now everything is quiet," a UN spokeswoman, French Captain Miriam Souchaki, told Reuters.

There was no word on possible casualties, but Reuters correspondent Dan De Luce said the explosions reverberated through the city near the Holiday Inn hotel.

In Zagreb, headquarters of the UN peacekeeping mission in the former Yugoslavia, a spokesman said the Serbs unleashed the mortar barrage because the government troops had dug trenches in violation of the truce accord.

"We learned from a Bosnian Serb liaison officer that a local Serb commander fired eight heavy mortar rounds into the general area of the Jewish cemetery," spokesman Paul Risley said.

The Bosnian Serbs have been besieging Sarajevo for more than 1,000 days, during which time hundreds of civilians have been killed by sniper fire and shelling.

A cease-fire agreed to last four months has been holding since January 1, with no serious violations reported so far.

The unveiling of the tombstone of

MANNIE KOTZEN

will take place on Tuesday, February 14, at 3:30 p.m., at Moshav Moledet.

The Family

With great sorrow we announce the sudden passing of

Dr. HYMIE GORDON

The funeral will take place on Sunday, February 12, 1995 (12 Adar Alef 5755) leaving Sanhedria at 10 a.m. for Har Hamenuhot Cemetery.

Mourning by his sister Selma and Willie Sussman and her children Alan Brodie, Hilary Benson and Jonathan Brodie and families. He was dedicated to mankind and all who knew him.

Habad-Lubavitch of Rochester, Minnesota

deeply mourn the passing of

Prof. HYMIE GORDON MD

Physician, scholar, friend

David and Chanie Greene

To remember the day she was buried a year ago, we shall all gather at the grave of my beloved

DINA HARIS

on Monday, February 13, 1995, at 11:30 a.m.

To the left up the hill inside gate no. 1/A, Sde Yehoshua.

Moshe Berlin and Zahava Hanoach of "Yad Hanadiv" will eulogize Dina

Rabbi Mordechai Rotem will officiate.

Her Husband,
Norman Haris

Our beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

TRUDE STARGARDTER

has left us forever.

The funeral will take place on Friday, February 10, 1995 at 12 noon at the Zur Shalom-Kiryat Bialik Cemetery.

Chana and Gerd Kochmann

grandchildren and great-grandchildren

Israel Goldstein Youth Village

deeply mourns the passing of its Director-General

UZI KRAMER

The funeral will take place on Sunday. Details will be published.

Board of Directors
Management
Staff and student body

The consecration of the tombstone for

GEOFFREY HYMAN

will take place on Monday, February 13, at 3:30 p.m., at Ness Harim Cemetery.

The Family

TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

The Kovens Health Systems Management Center

deeply mourns the passing of

CAL KOVENS

Founder of the Kovens Health Systems Management Center,

Doctor Philosophiae Honoris Causa of TAU, and a member of the Board of Governors of the University

and extends condolences to the family



Yeshivat Kerem B'Yavneh

TO OUR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

At the end of the shiva for our teacher and mentor Hagaon Hagadol Harav Chaim Yaakov Goldvicht, זצ"ל we have scheduled a Day of Learning in his memory 13 Adar Alef 5755 (February 13, 1995) at Yeshivat Kerem B'Yavneh's Bet Hamidrash

SCHEDULE:

- 9:00 Independent study and shulrim
- 12:00 Rav Moshe Chaim Dimantman, shilts, Roah Kollot, "Yad Brodman", Rehovot, Ram, Yeshivat Kerem B'Yavneh
- 13:15 Lunch
- 14:30 Rav Avraham Rivlin, shilts, Mashgiah, Yeshivat Kerem B'Yavneh
- 15:15 Mincha
- 15:30 Roah Hayeshiva Harav Mordechai Greenberg, shilts
- 16:00 Rav Yeshayahu Chaim Hadari, shilts, Roah Yeshivat Hakotel
- 16:30 Rav Zefania Drori, shilts, Rabbi of Kiryat Shmona, Roah Yeshivat Heder
- 17:00 Mincha and light refreshments
- 17:30 Rav Moshe Meyernick, shilts, son-in-law of Maran Hagaon
- 18:15 Learning of Mishnayot by his son, Rav Yosef Goldvicht, shilts

His talmidim and friends are requested to take part in this program. אין פוסין נוסות לבדיקים, דבריהם חן וזכרון

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סניף מרכזי

Rebels
exit
Grozny

NEWS IN FOCUS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1995



Rabin: Caught in the trap of his own creation

THE Rabin government is not unique in having trouble dealing with violations of an agreement that it signed.

What governments tend to do after they detect treaty violations was discussed in *Foreign Affairs* in 1961 by Fred Ikle, who later became a pivotal security figure in the Reagan administration.

The surprising point that Ikle makes is that most governments have a strong incentive not to do anything. Since many politicians have staked their national reputations on troubled treaties, he explains, underlining violations can damage public confidence in any government, especially if the public comes to perceive the treaty in question as a foreign policy failure.

Ikle refers to former British prime minister Stanley Baldwin, who revealed in the 1930s that because he feared losing an election, he would not admit to the British public that Germany had violated the Versailles Treaty.

Baldwin was not a central architect of Versailles, but acknowledging its failure would have required him to shift British foreign and defense policy into an entirely new direction that he was not prepared to force upon the voters — especially if it entailed massive rearmament.

Rabin appears to be affected by similar considerations.

Admitting the extent of PLO violations of the May 1994 Gaza-Jericho agreement ultimately undermines his own posture vis-à-vis the Israeli public. At the same time, it requires him to come up with an alternative course of action that he is not prepared to contemplate.

Indeed, real disclosure of what the PLO has done would make it extremely difficult for Foreign Minister Peres to obtain political backing in Congress for American funding of the Palestinian Authority.

AS A RESULT, most of the national monitoring of Israel's agreements with the PLO has fallen on the Knesset, rather than on the executive branch of government. This has increased the importance of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee as a primary source of information about how the Israel-PLO agreements have been doing. Last month, MK Ze'ev Benyamini (Likud) revealed the existence of a document from the International Law Division of the IDF, written by Col. David Yahav, that detailed dozens of PLO violations of the

Gaza-Jericho agreement.

Some of these violations have been only on the symbolic level. But most have entailed serious issues of security.

According to the document, the Palestinian Authority has failed to take serious action in investigating or preventing acts of terrorism. Israel has requested the extradition of known terrorists connected with the murder last summer of two Israelis from Ramle. This request has yet to be met.

Moreover, Palestinian Police weaponry has been used in terrorist actions, such as the October gun attack in central Jerusalem. Palestinian Police have crossed Israeli territory without any prior coordination with Israeli authorities. Both Palestinian security services and parts of the Palestinian Authority itself have been active in East Jerusalem, taking actions against Palestinians who are not under its jurisdiction.

A great deal of information would never reach any Knesset committee if the IDF were not willing to make it available.

In his first appearance before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on January 31, the new chief of staff, Lt.-Gen. Amnon Shahak, admitted that since the September 1993 Oslo agreement, Arafat's own organization, Fatah, had been involved "in more than one" terrorist attack.

The army has also admitted serious economic violations; last fall Maj.-Gen. Danny Rothschild told the committee that Arafat had diverted \$20 million from the Palestinian Authority to the PLO-controlled Wakf in Jerusalem.

The Rabin government has had to work out a way of coping with greater public awareness that its agreement with the PLO is not working, short of stating outright that the whole effort has failed.

One method of demonstrating some toughness is to use the closure of the territories, rather than the threat to discontinue the negotiations, as leverage to make Arafat deal effectively with terrorism.

Thus Peres has stated that the closure will be lifted if the Palestinian Authority takes steps to reduce terrorist activity; Peres was clearly using the degree of Palestinian effort rather than the extent of performance as a criterion for the fulfillment of treaty obligations. "We're not asking for miracles and wonders," he added.

The government risks destroying its credibility by admitting the PLO's treaty violations, but ignoring them gives Arafat little incentive for living up to any undertaking, Dore Gold writes.

Another technique the government has employed is to leak its own privately stated discontent with the PLO. Thus, just a few days after the Cairo summit of Rabin, Mubarak, Hussein and Arafat, a detailed account of Rabin's harsh exchanges with Arafat appeared in the Israeli press. Rabin listed the same complaints

that appeared in the IDF's list: Arafat had not supplied the names of the Palestinian Police he had drafted, as required by the Gaza-Jericho agreement; he had not disarmed the fundamentalists, and was creating a Lebanon of armed militias along Israel's border.

Looking at how most govern-

ments deal with such violations, Ikle noted that they tend to hope that problems will iron themselves out through continuing negotiations.

This seems to be the Rabin government's strategy in dealing with the PLO. But there is a price to be paid for this kind of approach.

In most cases, governments that cope with massive violations have to consider withdrawing from an existing treaty and thus are prone to conclude that such a drastic step can be destabilizing.

The Reagan administration did not withdraw from the 1972 ABM Treaty after Soviet violations in the 1980s; it simply also eroded the agreement.

The Israel-PLO case, however, is very different; the Oslo agreement was only an interim measure that was to be used as a test of the PLO. It was not a final status agreement.

But the Rabin government has not indicated to Arafat that it has any real alternative to the Oslo agreement, given PLO noncom-

pliance. The failure to revise the PLO Charter and the increasing penetration of east Jerusalem by Arafat's administration have been excused and not addressed.

This creates a vicious circle, because then Arafat has little incentive to live up to any undertakings, knowing that Rabin ultimately has no choice but to implement Oslo.

Ironically, the Rabin government's flexibility in dealing with Arafat has become one of the strongest factors in undermining its own accord with the PLO.

Dr. Gold is the director of the US Foreign and Defense Policy Project, Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, Tel Aviv University.

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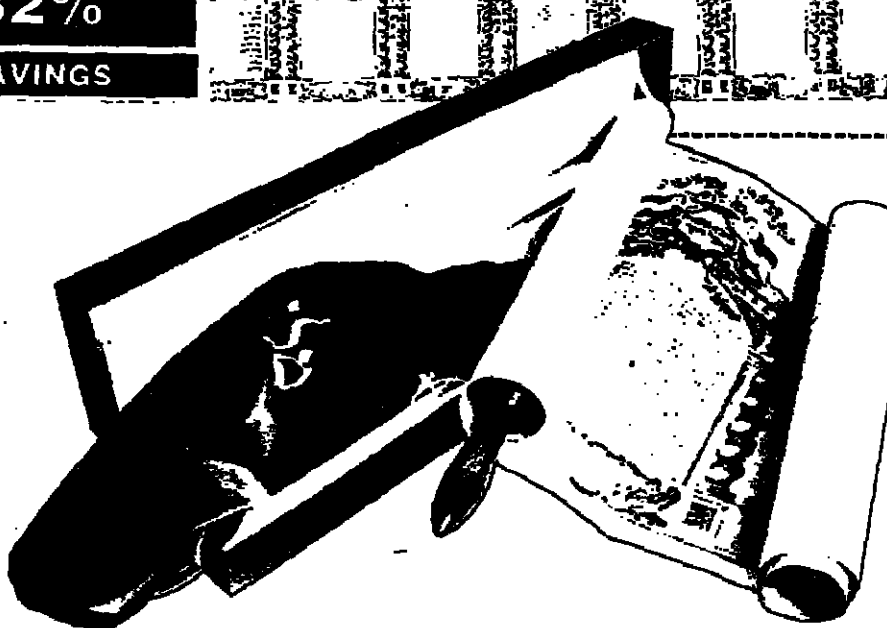
The Megillah is 39 cm (15 inches) wide and 4.5 metres (14 ft 9 inches) long. The container is 57 cm long x 11 cm wide and 8.5 cm high.

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Dehaishe will greet Palestinians as an occupying army

Refugee camp residents are apprehensive about a future under the Palestinian Authority. Steve Rodan reports

THE men sat in a circle in a cold dank room in the Dehaishe refugee camp outside Bethlehem. Their ages and status varied from elderly sheikh to young professionals.

Some were aligned with Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction of the PLO. Others were supporters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Nobody admitted to being a supporter of Hamas or Islamic Jihad. All insisted on anonymity.

What brought them together for this discussion was their concern for the future of the area under the Palestinian Authority. For months, these men, leading activists in Dehaishe, had been closely following developments in Gaza and their worry was that the chaos and brutality there would eventually envelop them once Israel withdrew.

"If the Palestinian soldiers come here with their guns," one participant said, "then the young people in Dehaishe will regard them as those of an occupying army."

Dehaishe rests on the Jerusalem-Hebron highway about eight kms from the southern approaches to the capital. The camp has an official population of 8,000, many of them refugees who fled from the Beit Shemesh and Jerusalem areas during the 1948 War of Independence.

The camp, which is surrounded by a tall fence erected by the IDF to stop stones being thrown at Israeli motorists, is sponsored by the United Nations' relief agency UNRWA. It is administered by 100 UN staffers.

The camp hosts several schools, a health center and dental clinic. It attracts many Western visitors — on this Sunday morning a US church delegation from Michigan was touring the camp.

While Dehaishe's dominant political groups are Fatah and the Popular Front, Hamas and the Islamic groups are said to com-

prise between five and 10 percent of residents. A large proportion of the inhabitants are university-educated, and many of the young women wear slacks and do not cover their hair.

"In Dehaishe, there is a long history of nationalism and grassroots organizations," said Maya Rosenfeld, a researcher now writing a doctorate on Dehaishe at the Hebrew University. "They have had powerful youth and women's groups and operated on the basis of decentralization and democracy. They paid a heavy price for their political behavior and sat in jail for many years."

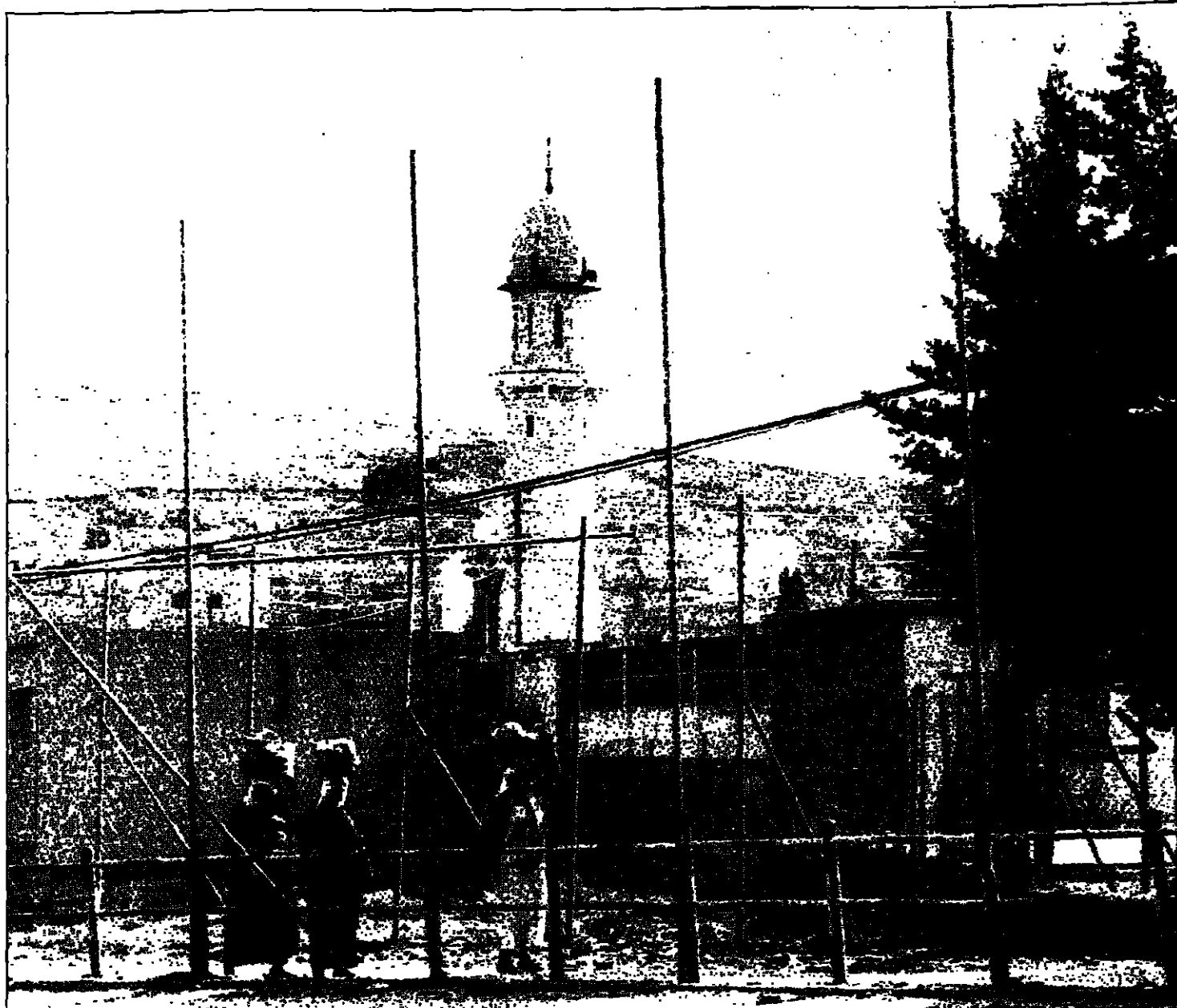
The expectation of Palestinian rule in Dehaishe has set the camp on edge. Several disputes have erupted over land ownership. The civil administration has issued orders to demolish five homes illegally built over the camp's boundaries.

In addition, UNRWA is battling efforts to build illegally on about 15 dunams within the camp — attempts which have resulted in sabotage of UN facilities. Sami Smhasha, an UNRWA public information officer, said the land is being reserved for Palestinian refugees from abroad who, under the Israel-PLO accord, are expected to return to the territories and will need housing.

"We have made it clear that this land is to be used for any new refugees, either for their housing, or for any project needed by the camp," Smhasha said. "We plan on taking legal action against anyone trying to encroach upon this land."

For these activists, the Gaza experiment of Palestinian self-rule has been a disappointment. In the nearly 10 months that the PA has been in existence, services have not improved in the refugee camps in the Strip.

Indeed services have deteriorated, they said. There has been little coordination between the PA and UN authorities as the lines of authority have been



A tall fence erected by the IDF to prevent stone-throwing surrounds the Dehaishe refugee camp. (Karen Ben-Zion)

blurred. Moreover, the advent of Palestinian self-rule has led to a decrease in donations to UNRWA, further cutting back services. The activists said Palestinians have not benefited from the donations of Western countries.

Furthermore, they fumed as they recalled how Israeli companies were awarded contracts that, they felt, should have gone to Palestinian firms. One was for a \$3-million contract to provide the PA with office furniture.

"The foreigners who come here laugh at us," the activist leading the discussion, said. "They say, 'Palestinians don't get preference even from your own government?'"

The sheikh agreed: "Nothing has changed in Gaza, even with Arafat there. The only change is nobody in Gaza needs an identity card."

Dehaishe, meanwhile, is slowly coming under Arafat's rule, the activists said. PA representatives visit the camp daily. Several

days earlier, an unnamed high-ranking PA official toured Dehaishe.

What is more unsettling, according to the activists, is the network of security agents being established in the camp. The Israeli collaborators in Dehaishe have long been driven out or stopped operating. Today, Jibril Rajoub, the PA's security chief in Jericho, has installed his men in the camp.

The feeling among Dehaishe activists is that the Palestinians

leadership might not bode any better for them than the Israeli occupiers. But, like many Palestinians, they have high expectations of democratic elections.

But will there be elections, the activists wondered. There are plenty of candidates, they said: local boys who spent years in jail fighting Israel and are now heroes in the community. Young professionals with the promise of developing a modern community.

"They're the real representa-

tives," opined a middle-aged, successful professional. "They felt the suffering, not the ones who spent their lives in Tunis and Algeria."

The activists, however, were not convinced that is what Arafat wants. "We don't understand democracy in a scientific way," one participant said. "Sometimes we appoint and don't elect. If we behave in a dictatorial way and appoint people, it will destroy what we are now trying to build," he added.

The participants agreed that the call for democracy will cut across party lines. In Dehaishe, they said, the pro-Arafat Fatah and the anti-peace process Popular Front are ready to make an alliance against any PA attempt to prevent free elections.

Fatah will be the first to stand up to the PA," one activist said.

The activists' fear of the PA is accompanied by their anger toward the Israelis. Daily, they watch Israelis commute from their homes in the territories to Jerusalem while Palestinians are banned by the IDF closure.

The Dehaishe residents pass what they regard as luxurious Jewish settlements, which they constantly fear will expand, to return to a camp where sewage flows freely.

One activist remembered what he described as the good old days. In the 1970s, he said, a Palestinian could travel and work anywhere in Israel. The money was good and there was personal freedom.

"Today, you can't walk into a supermarket without being looked at as a terrorist," he said.

The Dehaishe activists are not happy with the Rabin government's deliberations over separating Palestinians from Israelis.

"They said they still want access to Israeli health services and jobs. They stressed they will not tolerate living under conditions similar to that of Gaza."

But can the Palestinians claim collective rights to Israeli jobs and services without collective responsibility for preventing terror attacks?

After a long pause, the senior member of the group responded: "Israel needs peace more than us. The Israeli leadership has to understand this. We are millions and can withstand suffering for a long time."

Fatal assault on an immigrant family's dreams

The Gaza terrorists who gunned down a security guard also killed an immigrant family's hopes, Batsheva Tsur writes

THE Gromov family of Ashkelon, one-and-a-half years in the country, were on their way to becoming an aliyah success story. Yevgeny, the father, had found a job that he enjoyed; Galina, the mother, had temporary work; their nine-year-old son, also called Yevgeny, had integrated well into the Nof Yam primary school.

They earned enough to rent a duplex near the sea, had made friends with their veteran Israeli neighbors, and seemed ready to live happily ever after.

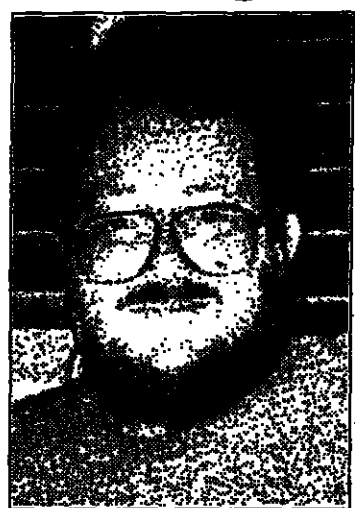
Early Monday, Yevgeny Gromov left the house with his assault rifle. As usual, he and a second guard were due to accompany a gasoline truck to Gaza. Just beyond Nahal Oz, the convoy was ambushed by terrorist gunmen and Gromov, who managed to return fire, died a few minutes later.

YEVGENY and Galina met on a warm autumn night in 1984, in the southeast Russian city of Kuybyshev, formerly Samara. "I was walking downtown with a girlfriend when two guys came by. One of them [Yevgeny] stopped to look at me, then asked if they could join us," Galina recalled this week. "It was stuffy inside so we all walked around outdoors. When we parted, he took my telephone number."

Yevgeny called immediately and asked her out the next night. "He always knew exactly what he wanted," Galina said.

"He was 21, I was 22. I took great care putting on my makeup and chose my best clothes. He showed up for the date in work clothes, and I wanted to go home. 'You can't go,' he said to me. 'You are going to marry me.'"

After two months of persistent



Yevgeny Gromov: He was known as an optimistic and strong person.

courting, Galina agreed and they married in December. She graduated as a pediatrician at a hospital specializing in infectious diseases. He continued working at a metal factory, at the same time earning a degree in ballistic engineering. Eventually, he became manager of the plant.

After perestroika, Yevgeny began a private business and started making arrangements to come to Israel. With a sister in Ashkelon, he decided they should head for the coastal town. They started off in an apartment with his sister Marina and, within a week, Yevgeny had a job — as a street sweeper. From there, with a sprinkling of Hebrew and combat experience, it was not long before he landed work with the guard company.

"He decided, and so we came [to Israel]," Galina said. But she liked the choice. "Ashkelon is a friendly place. After the usual hassles new immigrants go through, [son] Yevgeny has settled down at school and has Israeli friends. And we can smell the sea from our house. It is like a sanatorium, so healthy for the boy."

While Galina was studying for the Israeli medical certification exams, Yevgeny was intent on supporting the family. "But it wasn't only for the money that he

chose to work as a guard," she said. "He always wanted to be a fighter. He would clean his gun lovingly at home. He had served in the Red Army. He knew there were dangers involved in going to Gaza, but he wanted to remain at that job. He didn't opt for an engineering course, even though I tried to persuade him."

GALINA continued: "I am an invalid now. Yevgeny was my wall. He always gave me strength. I have no one to lean on now."

"His philosophy was that a man must do everything for the family. He lost his mother when he was very little and saw his father doing everything."

Her son is already trying to step into his father's shoes. "This morning, he asked me if I would prefer him to stay home or go to school. He took my hand and told me not to worry because he would always be at my side. He looks exactly like his father. That's why Yevgeny wanted us to call him after him."

She pondered this thought. We had been talking for more than an hour on the telephone. Then she blurted out: "I think he always had the feeling he would die young."

"It has just struck me," she said. "I feel he had a premonition of his death in the past few days. There was something about him, something inside which he didn't want to let come out, which made him look very sad and worried recently. It wasn't because I failed the medical exam. He knew I was planning to try again soon. I had just got a job at a florist, so we had extra money. He had no intention of leaving his job. He just seemed to have this strange feeling."

There was whispering in Russian. Then Marina, who would like to remember her brother differently, came to the phone and said: "Yevgeny was not unhappy. He was an idealist and an optimist. He was the type who was the life of a party. Only this week, we were talking and he said, 'The kid has settled down well. I have lots of strength. Everything is great.'"

Their cries were heard

TWENTY-FOUR new immigrants have been killed in terrorist incidents since 1990 and another 25 have been injured, Ruth Bar-On, head of the Public Council for Soviet Jewry, noted after this week's attack. Galina Gromov's husband Yevgeny was the most recent victim.

Gromov is alone and in shock. She also has a child to support. She has no family in Israel other than her sister-in-law, who is also an immigrant. Gromov speaks good Hebrew considering the amount of time she has lived here, but she thinks she has lost the job where she started working only a week before her husband's murder. Moreover, she has not passed the medical exams that would have enabled her to get permanent work as a physician.

This is where volunteer organizations, like the council, and governmental and public bodies are trying to fill the gap.

"Many people have been here. It has helped me a lot," Gromov said two days after her husband was killed. She added that she was too confused to know who they were, although she remembered social workers from the municipality. Neighbors have brought in food.

Now Gromov is awaiting her mother, who will arrive next week to help her decide where she goes from here. Her mother is being flown here by the council. Two of the council's volunteers have offered to be at her disposal day and night; one of the volunteers is Marina Lashtover, who is Gromov's age and whose security-guard husband was fatally shot near Jerusalem's Old City last March.

The Absorption Ministry dispatched workers from its local office to help make burial arrangements and assess the family's needs, the ministry spokesman said. The family will receive long-term assistance from a ministry fund set up to deal with special cases. In addition, the spokesman said, the family will be provided with public housing, even if there are no provisions for such housing allocations.

"There are other tragedies like mine in this country," Gromov acknowledged. "I need time to relax and then I will try to manage."

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Israel still looking for a place to hang its hat in the UN

Despite the return of Israel to the international fold, it still hasn't found its place in 'the club.' Marilyn Henry reports from New York

AN Israeli envoy to the United Nations used to have a guaranteed pulpit in the General Assembly only a few times a year, reserved for debate on the "question of Palestine."

Much has changed. Ambassador Gad Ya'acobi addressed the General Assembly 11 times in the session just ended, often on issues expanding Israel's traditional horizons.

But while Israel has made the shift from client to colleague at the UN, acceptance — the kind that goes without saying — is elusive. Israel has yet to become a member of the club. Instead, it is distinguished as the only state that cannot join a geopolitical group in which much of the business of the international community gets its first hearing.

"This is one of the most crucial issues," Ya'acobi said in an interview, "because you cannot achieve full normalization and full participation unless you are part of a geopolitical group."

The UN is a committee-happy institution. But what some call the backbone of the organization — the web of regional groups — is not itself part of the official UN structure. Instead, it is anchored by sheer endurance.

The regional groups are the arenas where member states can hammer out positions that, ideally, serve each nation. The groups then can advance a regional stance in larger forums.

The groups are based on the notion that no region should be given short shrift in the international organization. It is through the regions that candidates for the powerful Security Council and the Economic and Social Council are presented to the General Assembly.

There are five permanent members of the Security Council — the US, China, Russia, Britain and France. The 10 so-called nonpermanent seats are allotted by region in an effort to ensure an equitable geographic representation. Groups caucus to decide which state they might nominate for a council opening designated for their specific regions. If members can agree on a candidate, they avoid a contested election on the floor of the General Assembly.

(Such a contest is expected

next year, when Indonesia will vacate an Asian seat on the Security Council. This week, Japan joined India and the Philippines in publicly expressing interest in the seat.)

When a state wants a council seat, it makes its first pitch to its group. That leaves Israel talking to itself, because its natural geographic affiliation would place it with the Arab states. And that door is closed.

"We cannot, unfortunately, be a member because it needs a consensus" of the group, Ya'acobi said. "I don't foresee that Iran and Iraq will enthusiastically support the inclusion of Israel."

LOOKING for a place to hang its hat, Israel approached the "Western Europe and Others" group, which bears a striking resemblance to the European Union, with the addition of Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The US tends to be associated with this group, as well.

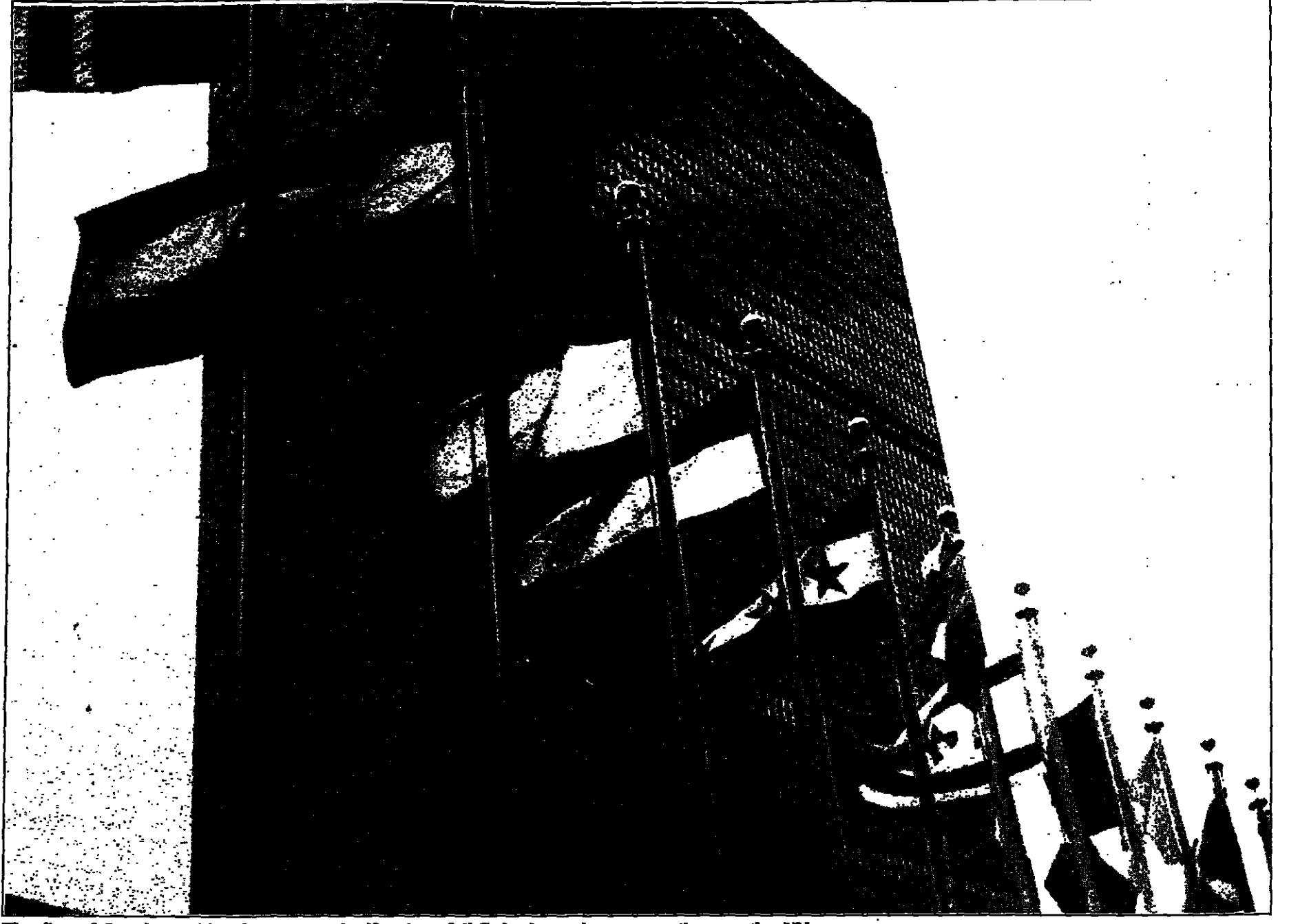
"We thought this was a natural group to be in because it is not a geographic group per se, but based on some common value, democracy," Ya'acobi said.

But as Israel would need consensus from the Arabs to join the West Asia group, so it would need such a vote from Europe. Despite the sea change in relations at the UN, the European states collectively are not inclined to give Israel such a boost.

"Some of them are very reluctant to have another country and to share with this country the privileges and the representation," the Israeli ambassador said.

"From time to time, some of those countries say, 'We are not opposed to your candidacy, if nobody else will oppose it,'" he said. "This was the reaction of Britain [and] France, but they rely on others to oppose, so they can say they will not oppose."

A handful of Israelis hold high-level positions in UN organizations, posts they earned without the influence of a group. Pinna Herzog, who has just retired as a Health Ministry deputy director-general, was recently elected first vice-chairman of the World Health Organization executive. Hebrew University law professor David Kretzmer was elected to the UN Commission on Human



The flag of Israel — unlike the country itself — is a full-fledged equal among nations at the UN.

Rights.

Herzog and Kretzmer were elected on merit, not on geographical quota. And while each such election is another notch toward normalization, it is also a reminder that Israelis in some professional fields have a degree of acceptance that Israel itself has yet to attain.

Israel's interest in getting its foot in the group door says more about trying to shed its outsider status than endorsing the group.

As nations' common interests tend to be less territorial than substantive, geography as a basis for alliance has severe limits. However natural they appear, few regional groups can address or serve their members' basic needs.

The geography of Japan, for instance, places it in the Far East-

ern group, which is where it sits when the time comes to consider nominations for UN council seats. But when Japan wants to grapple with the nuts and bolts of its domestic and international concerns, Tokyo looks elsewhere. It turns to states with similar economic, technical and intellectual interests, which, along with the US, happen to be in the "Western Europe and Others" group.

"Groups are one of those anachronistic features that have not necessarily kept abreast of the changes in the world," said one European diplomat at the UN.

Israel has company on the sidelines: Slovenia and Estonia. Pre-

viously, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia had been in the Eastern European group. When those nations splintered, their successor states moved into the same group, often quite reluctantly. Some states that were historically linked with the Soviet bloc wanted to join the Western group instead.

Unlike Israel, which is still waiting for its invitation to a party, Slovenia and Estonia were expected by the Eastern Europeans. They just chose not to attend.

If Israel is excluded from the Arabs' West Asia group, a number of Western states say privately, that should not bar its participation elsewhere. It hardly seems sporting that rejection by one

group results in rejection by all. The Israelis agree.

"We are the only country in the world that has no alternative group. We want to be affiliated to, but not a member of, the West European group," said a member of the Israeli mission to the UN, who asked to remain anonymous. "Then we would be

able to use the rights of members to present people for positions that are based on the geographical group."

"We see ourselves as a Western democracy. But if they let Israel in, there would be claims from other [former Soviet bloc] states to join the group. They don't want to open the club."

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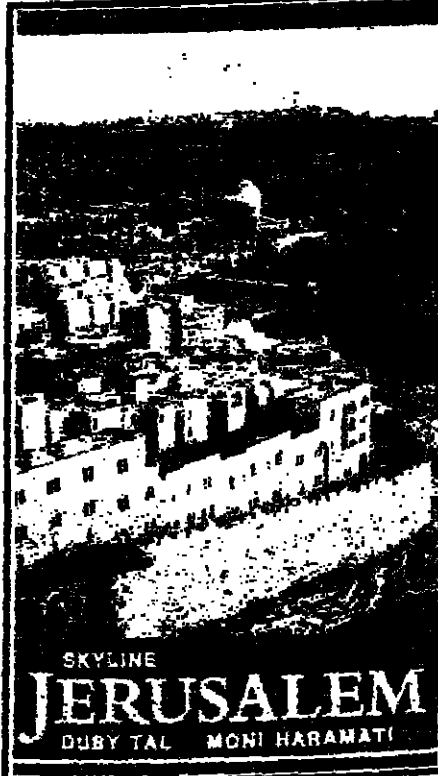
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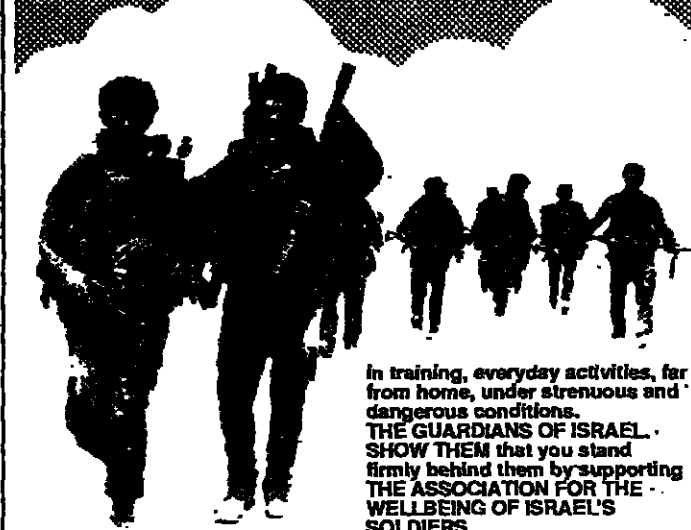
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MKs do Amman – royally

It was a typically Israeli affair when MKs joined King Hussein for supper, Liat Collins writes from Amman

KNESSET Speaker Shevah Weiss seems to have adopted as his motto, "Have gavel, will travel."

His latest, and briefest, trip was to the Hashemiyeh Royal Palace in Amman Sunday night for supper with King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan.

The company included what has been dubbed "the Knesset Flying Class" – a group of 28 MKs, comprising the heads of all the Knesset factions and committees and the seven deputy speakers.

The party flew from Ben-Gurion Airport like a band of schoolmates setting out on the sort of educational-but-fun excursion you have to afterwards describe in class.

Like most school trips, it started with some of the participants suddenly remembering what they had forgotten to bring. MKs Yigal Bibi (NRP) and Shlomo Benizri (Shas) had left their passports at home. They did what most travelers would do in the same circumstances – first they panicked and then they looked for a friend who could help.

They didn't have to search far. Likud MK Yehoshua Matza, sitting a few seats behind them on the bus, used his influence as chairman of the Knesset Interior Committee and sorted out the problem with a borrowed mobile phone.

At the airport, the MKs proved that they truly reflect the national culture.

The elected representatives of the Israeli people could not keep out of the duty-free stores – with shopping lists ranging from sports shoes to an electric organ (for Shas MK Yosef Azran's son). Take-off was almost delayed by the effort to separate the parliamentarians from the goods.

The Royal Jordanian Airbus was another of those peace-process phenomena which attract the overused adjective "first."

It was the first Royal Jordanian plane to land at Ben-Gurion Airport. It had not come far, at least in terms of physical distance. During the 20-minute flight there



The King and I: King Hussein greets Post reporter Liat Collins; Crown Prince Hassan and Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss look on. (The other person to the right is Ma'ariv's Tal Shabat)

wasn't enough time for coffee, a movie or even the standard life-jacket prep talk.

But it was long enough for Likud MK Naomi Blumenthal to sing several rounds too many of "Hevenu Shalom Aleichem" while the stewardesses – all Irish – handed out Thai orchids and flight-crew smiles.

Deputy Speaker Dov Shilansky (Likud), who abstained from the vote on the peace treaty with Jordan, loudly declared he was "traveling to a part of Eretz Yisrael I've never been to before."

Azran told anyone who showed interest what blessing should be recited on seeing a king.

THE CONVOY of black Mercedes took longer to reach the palace from the airport than the flight had taken to reach the capital.

It was a disappointment. The building, or what we saw of it, resembles a five-star hotel. There was lots of marble and there were lots of chandeliers, but where were the fountains, mosaics and gold decorations that Hollywood had created in our minds?

An even greater disappointment was in store – where was the queen? Although we were to meet the king, the only sight of his wife was a gilt-framed photo on a wooden table.

We later learned the queen had not been invited, to keep the

event businesslike rather than social.

Certainly, Prince Hassan got right down to basics.

After greeting the MKs with a biblical quote in passable Hebrew, he launched into a detailed lecture in English. Those expecting a general speech of the sort the Prime Minister's Office pulls off its computer were surprised instead to hear a well-prepared talk accompanied by fact sheets and slides.

"Now is the time to move from peace-making to peace building," Hassan explained. "We need to translate the euphoria of peace into terms easily understandable to the farmer and store holder."

He emphasized that the Jordanian public has yet to feel the concrete results of peace and needs to see the economic benefits.

"We need to act against the political cynicism of those who ask 'What now?'" Hassan said. "But we should not be forced into adopting an apologetic tone when talking about the peace."

He also warned that it is vital for each side to develop a cultural-religious dialogue within its own communities before trying the same with each other.

It was food for thought at a dinner which had to cater to all religious sensibilities.

The Orthodox Jews asked for a vegetarian meal; the religious Moslems wanted the traditional meaty dishes on which to break the Ramadan fast.

The kashrut observers lost. Many even envied the foresight of *Haizofeh* reporter Yona Cohen, who produced homemade sandwiches from his bag as if he were sitting in a cafeteria rather than a royal dining room.

While Cohen munched on cheese and bread, others had a feast fit for a king – two types of salmon, a selection of dips like humous and eggplant; cream of mushroom soup; mutton in vegetables; steak fillets in mushroom sauce; pasta in tomato; soft fried almonds; chicken slices and a variety of salads.

The desserts created a test in self-control – cream caramel,

chocolate mousse, rice pudding, apple pie, pancakes and chocolate torte.

Although we never met the queen, we admired her – anyone who can keep slim when faced daily with those dishes must have very strong willpower.

After supper, it was time for the king's address. Unlike his brother, Hussein kept his speech brief and general. He said he hoped the direct contacts would build a lasting peace "to serve as an example to others in the region, and to create a lasting peace for generations to come, so that the forces of peace would overcome the shadows of darkness."

Weiss responded with similar sentiments and re-extended President Ezer Weizman's invitation to visit Israel. Later he joked that he hoped he would have more than two days in which to prepare for the return visit, unlike the Israeli trip to Amman.

Apparently, although the MKs' visit had been mooted for a long time, it was kept under wraps until the last moment for fear of offending Moslem fundamentalists.

And the MKs found it hard to ignore a front page *Jordan Times* article on the day of the supper which reported that "lawmakers affiliated with the powerful Islamic Action Front bitterly criticized the visit by the Israeli legislators."

The Front, which holds 16 of the 80 seats in the Jordanian parliament, said the visit "offended the feelings of the Jordanian people, who will see the enemies of the [Arab] nation, the occupiers and the war criminals on their national soil."

When questioned about the story, Hassan smiled.

"That's progress," he said. "The Islamic Action Front 'completely opposed' the peace treaty, but they only 'strongly criticized' your visit."

Back home the next day MK Yitzhak Levy (NRP) complained to Weiss about the lack of kosher food. Trips to Arab countries have become so common lately that the only hitch is over the menu.

Now that's progress.

Quick, send for Rambo Barak and superman Ramon

COULD Haim Ramon, sipping tea in his nondescript Histadrut office, leap at any moment into super-cloak and tights and fly out of the fifth-floor window to save his government, party and nation from perdition? Now that Shas has finally made up its mind to opt for the opposition, everyone agrees that a cabinet face-lift is urgently needed, and many think the only ones capable of lifting those flaccid jaws could be Superman Haim Ramon and Ehud Barak.

These two super-jocks – one an ex-soccer player and impressive political in-fighter, the other a war hero who made it to chief-of-staff – have that tempting political combination of boyish charm and get-things-done macho appeal.

THE WEEK THAT WAS

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

gasping from a surprise low blow.

Kol Yisrael's military correspondent Carmela Menashe was asked in an interview program to sum up the difference between the outgoing Barak and his successor, Amnon Lipkin-Shahak.

Creasing her brow and summoning the resources of her strategic knowledge and military-reporter insights, Carmela bit her lip and finally let slip that snippet of intelligence eagerly awaited by friends and enemies tuned in from afar:

"Shahak is more attractive."

DOUBLE DEALS

LABOR HAS no fewer than two teams working out Ramon's return.

One, headed by MK Elie Goldschmidt, is looking into legal ways to revoke Ramon's expulsion from the party.

The other, a gaggle of Ramon's dovish Knesset groupies, is trying to persuade the man himself that all is forgiven and no one will remember how he betrayed his party, spurned its codes, and left it in anarchic ruins.

Spearheading this track is tourism minister and friend Uzi Baram, who sped from Jerusalem for a weekend *shmoove* at Ramon's home in Ramat Hasharon.

The rosy scenario: Ramon returns to Labor, the Ram and Labor factions in the Histadrut unite, and everyone lives happily ever after.

"Nonsense," said a cheery Ran Cohen, Histadrut parliament chairman. "Ramon may return to Labor. But a Ram-Labor union –

set a committee to sniff out certain money-allocation practices.

This, of course, could not be one of the reasons why Shas is screaming about his getting the post.

special privileges in religious and financial affairs.

Then it sidled into opposition. And now, not only does it still want Rabin to keep all his agreements, but insists on the right to block Rabin's freedom to choose whoever he wants to fill the two abandoned Shas ministries.

Not surprisingly, some anger at Shas is raging through Labor. Even this party has a humiliation threshold.

"Who the hell asked them?" snarled one senior party source at Aryeh Deri's hints that prima donna Shas would prefer a *ma'sorti* minister in Interior and Religious Affairs, rather than Baram or – satanic horrors – a Meretz minister. "Shas cannot rule from outside," said Baram. When Baram last held this ministry, he



Ran Cohen: There'll be no Labor-Ram union.

set a committee to sniff out certain money-allocation practices. This, of course, could not be one of the reasons why Shas is screaming about his getting the post.

SPICE HUNTERS

THERE ARE no official figures, but more and more Jerusalemites are migrating to Tel Aviv. Not just for the spices in Levinsky Market, or the ghostly furniture in Herzl Street; not even for the winter, but for good.

The new arrivals from Jerusalem have a bewildered air as, hands on foreheads, they wander around repeating to themselves the ravings of a certain deputy mayor of the capital which haunt them still.

Deputy Mayor Haim Miller, that is, who suddenly perceived "pornography" in the grim Yad Vashem photographs of naked Holocaust victims.

Miller, of Shas, and his spiritual sidekick Shmuel Meir (NRP), another deputy mayor (do they clone?), are stark symbols of the Olmert era, complain the fleeing had-enoughniks.

Ma'ariv columnist Tommy Lapid mused on Miller and noted that "you have to be either a sex pervert or a bareheaded rabbi to see pornography in the nude photographs at Yad Vashem."

Anyone who can see in these pictures anything which arouses desire, added Lapid, "is a miserable wretch, perhaps even mentally deranged. One thing he is not: a Jew. Because he sees in those photographs what no Jew sees in them, and does not see what every Jew sees in them."

'Rambo' Barak could give jowly Labor a face-lift.

forget it."

But the Meretz Cohen would not be averse to a Ramon-Meretz list in 1996.

SHAS WINS HUTZPA PRIZE THE HUTZPA prize of the week goes to Shas.

First it sidled into the coalition and jumped line with the sharp elbows technique. Out went Shulamit Aloni from Education.

Next came the sulk technique. Shas left the coalition, but didn't really.

"One leg here, one leg there," said Laborites as Shas stayed glued to its benefits and cash infusions. Then it started voting against the cabinet in the Knesset while still demanding

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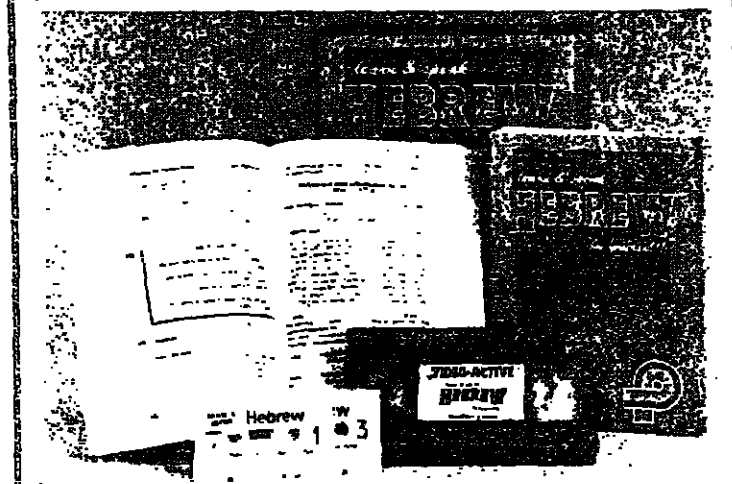
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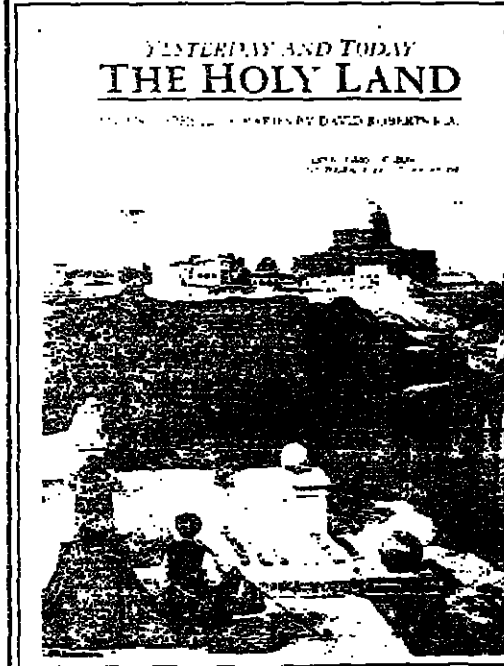
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הכרזה מן הארץ

A 'New York Times' vendetta

We must wise up

EYE ON THE MEDIA
DAVID BAR-ILLAN

AVI Weiss is an activist New York rabbi who has the irritating habit of turning up where the timid fear to tread. An ardent believer in nonviolence, he has never done anything Martin Luther King would not have done. But he has tried his best to spoil occasions such as American-Soviet summit meetings that failed to address the plight of Soviet Jewry, the Rabin-Peres-Arafat Nobel Peace Prize festivities, the building of a convent in Auschwitz, and visits to the US by dignitaries known for their hostility to Israel.

Usually accompanied by no more than a dozen followers, he doesn't exactly pose great danger to public order, but he shouts, disrupts, climbs fences, tears signs and makes himself thoroughly obnoxious to the local police. He has probably been photographed being pushed to the ground, dragged away and arrested more than anyone in the past two decades.

The New York Times does not like Weiss. He is precisely the kind of noisy, pesky Jew that the cultured, "civilized" Jews who run the Times have always been embarrassed by.

For half a century before World War II, the paper did not allow the publication of pictures of bearded Jews. During the Holocaust, it rarely let reports of the slaughter enter the paper, and when it did, it concealed them in back pages.

On Israel, its editorial line echoes Peace Now. To cite a typical example, no newspaper more vehemently condemned the bombing of the Osirak nuclear reactor in 1981. If the Times did not carry two of the most pro-Israel columns in the US, William Safire and A.M. Rosenthal, it could easily be branded anti-Israel.

On Weiss, the paper's policy is simply to ignore him as much as possible. When Weiss and his followers were arrested after a seven-hour sit-in at the Birkenau church on January 25 - an incident which received major coverage in the media - the Times ignored the

story. When in September 1993 a similar group led by Weiss demonstrated in front of Demjanjuk's home in Seven Hills, Ohio, Times man Don Terry made several references to Weiss in the report he filed. They were excised before reaching the page.

But it is when Weiss cannot be ignored that the Times's animus becomes clear. On November 9, 1992, the paper quoted Weiss as saying, "[Mayor David Dinkins] is responsible for the death of Yankel Rosenbaum" [the yeshiva student murdered by black rioters in Brooklyn]. In a city plagued by black-Jewish tensions, this was an incendiary sentence.

Two days later, the paper ran a correction: "The rabbi, Avi Weiss, said that Mayor David Dinkins was 'responsible for the climate after Yankel Rosenbaum,' not that he was 'responsible for the death of Yankel Rosenbaum.'" (As it happens, this quote, too, was incorrect.)

An even worse distortion occurred on March 8, 1993, when the Times ran a story about a picket led by Weiss outside Sheikh Rahman's mosque. (Rahman is the alleged mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.) Weiss was quoted: "We are here to condemn this place and this mosque."

The statement was too juicy for finer Jews to overlook. In a *Forward* article (March 19, 1993) Leonard Fein described Weiss as "a perpetual noise-machine," "wholly undisciplined and reckless," who acts in "the manner of a Salem witch hunter" and "implicates a whole community in his denunciations." He compared Weiss to Aysla Salameh, mother of one of the WTC bombers. Just as Salameh accuses the Jews, saying they bombed the WTC building and then blamed her son for it, Weiss blames all Moslems for the crime.

It took the Times two weeks to publish a correction: "An article on March 18... omitted a word in quoting Rabbi Avi Weiss... at a demonstration outside the Al-Salaam mosque in Jersey City. He said, 'I am not here to condemn the place and this mosque.'"

What's one word between friends? (Needless to say, Fein did not retract his 800 words of Weiss-bashing.)

Another Times distortion can be found in a short report headed "Rabbi fights Poles," on January 28. It was a Reuters report shortened by the Times. Reuters reported, "A militant New York rabbi scuffled today with Polish extremists guarding a huge cross erected outside the Auschwitz Nazi death camp." The Times omitted "extremists."

The Reuters report made clear that Weiss was there to rip the Polish sign which said (shades of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion), "We will defend this cross against the next attacks by Jews and Freemasons," and made clear that the Poles were indeed extremists.

The Times omitted the reference. A reader of the Times story had to assume that Weiss went there to scuffle with innocent Poles, whom his group outnumbered 10 to two.

(Not that the Reuters story was a perfect example of journalistic integrity. Describing the melee, it said: "Avi Weiss, accompanied by 10 of his supporters, traded blows with two Poles.")

This hardly jibes with Weiss's nonviolent image. The Reuters reporter on the scene says he never used the words "traded blows," but "there were blows thrown by the Poles." The embellishment was made by the Reuters desk.)

Editorially, the Times has a perfect right to dislike and disparage Weiss. But to allow the paper's bias to affect its news reporting is to violate the most fundamental rule of journalism.

AN EGYPTIAN MORSEL

The following column appeared in *The Egyptian Gazette*, a government newspaper, on January 16. The writer is the paper's editorial columnist, Samir Ragab, featured daily at the top of the editorial page.

"I have to congratulate Foreign Minister Amr Moussa on his terse reply to the Israeli foreign ministry's overweening declarations about stepping up punitive measures against Egypt."

The shrewd diplomat's reply was a concise lecture on self-discipline and was also meant to awaken Israel to its false illusions of power.

"It seems that Israel has forgotten the lesson of October 6, 1973, when its army was totally vanquished and its 'valiant' soldiers were chased in the desert like rats. Israel, which has really grown too big for its feet, is acting the bully, but as a rule, every bully eventually turns into a paper tiger."

The Foreign Minister slammed the Israelis, saying that he threw the Israeli newspapers into the only place fit: the waste bin.

"Apparently, the Israeli arrogance was so trying to Moussa's patience that he slammed them with the truth in plain terms, assuring Rabin and his coterie that the way to peace cannot be paved with threats."

"The problem with the Jews is that they are ungrateful and compulsive liars. They were also deluding themselves by believing that concluding peace agreements with the Arabs can be reconciled with their settlement expansions and will also make the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon a fait accompli."

"They kept bargaining and beating about the bush, but forgot that Egypt is not susceptible to influences and that it tolerates neither treason nor false pride."

"Egypt's integrity is above all doubt and its sense of fair play is deeply ingrained. But he who deviates from the straight path must bear the grave consequences."

CAPITAL TALK

TEDDY KOLLEK with AMOS KOLLEK

ISRAEL is a country where people talk a lot about issues, mostly security and economics. This isn't particularly strange; in every modern Western state, the economy is what is most on people's minds. And in Israel, which has been through at least five wars in 47 years, it is understandable that security is a major issue.

Neither of these two important topics should be of nearly as much concern as the issue of our children's education. Israel's military strength is unquestionable and its economy is sound and expanding. But the education of our children and grandchildren, the very matter on which Israel's future will eventually stand or fall, is not in nearly as good shape, and, what is worse, nobody seems to be doing enough about it.

ACTUALLY, there is one group that is focusing on education: the haredim. And good for them. They know what they want and go after it methodically. Their curriculum is clear and they are better funded than anybody else, because aside from the government and municipal moneys that all the sectors get, they raise their own capital.

They have long school days and hot meals. They thus attract people from outside their own circles, especially new immigrants with little means, who need to send their children somewhere for the day so they can work.

Secular education, meanwhile, lags behind, underfunded and underplanned. Sadly, there is no clear direction among the non-Orthodox Israelis, aside from growing materialism.

Why is education so critical? Israel is a country that was created out of a terrible need, following the Holocaust. It had shared ideals and a common purpose. Without them, I believe we are in real danger. If making money is the supreme objective, people can go

elsewhere, to North America, Europe or Australia.

Over the past couple of decades, Israel has grown increasingly polarized and divided. There are dozens of political, social and ethnic groups and factions pulling in different directions, tearing the nation apart. If we are to stay one people in this region, we have to unite and we have to make peace with our neighbors. This we cannot do unless we are able to educate our children toward tolerance and give them values, even if it takes another generation or two.

WHEN I was growing up in Vienna, it was the capital of an empire of 30 nations: Germans, Czechs, Hungarians, Slovaks, and so on, including all those groups that are fighting now in Bosnia. Today, Vienna is all Austrian. Its citizens live peacefully together. They have closed the gaps.

Will we go the route of Vienna or Sarajevo? The answer lies in education. Education of a nation, not of separate factions headed in different directions. Bridge the gaps, teach tolerance, respect the gaps, devotion to public causes, good citizenship.

Today, unfortunately, we have this kind of unity only in special schools for the handicapped. In these schools there are Jews of every kind, as well as Moslems and Christians, all learning together, all of them getting along, almost without any tensions. There are also some joint Arab-Jewish kindergartens that are an example of what an integrated society can be.

But these are drops in the bucket. If we want the peace treaties to be meaningful, we have to make a special effort in education. What is needed, along with the preservation of Jewish tradition, is thorough planning and implementation of an educational system that can carry us into the 21st century.

Of Koranic peace

MOHAMMED won his first major military victory against the pagan Kurash tribe of Mecca at Badr in January 624.

That battle occurred when the Kurashis, learning that Mohammed planned to attack the unarmed caravan of a local merchant bringing 50,000 pieces of gold from Syria, sent an armed force to defend the caravan.

In the Koran, Mohammed and Angel Gabriel discuss that victory and the preparations for further battles against infidels:

"...Let not the unbelievers think they will ever get away... Muster against them all the men and cavalry you have at your command, so you may strike terror into the enemy of Allah and your enemy... If they incline to peace, make peace with them and put your trust in Allah... But if they seek to deceive you, Allah will be all-sufficient for you..."

The Messenger of Allah may not take captives until he has made a great slaughter in the land..." (Sura 8, entitled "Al Anfal/The Spoils," verses 59-68, Rodwell and Dawood translations and Robert Payne's *History of Islam*).

In 627 Mohammed signed the Truce of Hudaibiyah with the Kurashis, valid for 10 years, "without reservations or bad faith." Under the pact, he would not enter Mecca as a conqueror, and the Kurashis would clear the city for three days each year so the Moslems could make their pilgrimage to the Kaaba undisturbed.

Three years later a brawl broke out between a Beduin tribe converted to Islam and some idolatrous Kurashis. Mohammed seized the opportunity to accuse the Kurashis of violating the truce and entered Mecca in force. The city surrendered.

Robert Payne sums up that episode: "By sabotage, by deceit, by the terror of Mohammed's name, the city had been weakened; and it fell into his hands, as he had long ago suspected it would fall, like a ripe plum."

Peace with "unbelievers"!

SHEIKH ABDEL Aziz ibn Bazz, mufti of Saudi Arabia and president of its Ulema (Higher

VIEW FROM NOV
MOSHE KOHN

Council), recently cited the above-mentioned Koranic passage about making peace with enemies who "incline to peace." He did so in a *fatwa* (religious edict) he issued in December endorsing the Saudi rulers' pursuit of relations with Israel. The *fatwa* said Moslems would be sinning if they tried to hinder this pursuit.

Now, "an explosive argument over whether making peace with Israel conforms to the precepts of Islam is building among Muslim theologians in Saudi Arabia and Egypt," *New York Times* correspondent Yonnes M. Ibrahim reported last week. (*International Herald Tribune*, February 1.)

The move by the Saudis and Gulf states "aroused significant protests... from [their] religious establishments and among Muslim fundamentalists in Egypt" and in Saudi Arabia itself.

Three weeks ago Ibn Baaz re-entitled and, according to Ibrahim, said that "peace with Israel was conditional... and could not be made as long as Jews occupied Arab Muslim lands."

He also said he supports peace with Israel only because of Moslem weakness. "Peace with the Jews would be unthinkable if the Moslems were strong. In such an event reconciliation with the Jews would not be permissible; it would be our duty to fight them" (*Yediot Aharonot* and *Ha'aretz*, January 20, quoting the Saudi daily *al-Muslimun*).

Ibrahim said the protests of the Moslem clergymen "are linking up with the rejection by... a vast number of columnists, writers, politicians and cultural figures in Egypt, Iraq, North Africa, Syria and among the Palestinians... of Arab peace treaties with Israel."

Those rejectionists feel signing such treaties would "consolidate an Arab defeat in the long struggle that began with Israel's founding in 1948."

Question: How do you say "New Middle East" in Arabic?

Slightly more than two thirds of the Israeli populace want the talks with the "Palestin-

ians" suspended temporarily or terminated.

The Gallup organization found this in a telephone poll of 557 Israelis it carried out for Independent Media Review and Analysis (IMRA) on January 29-30, one week after the Sharon (Beit Lid) Junction massacre. The respondents were aged 18 and over and included Arabic-speaking non-Jews. The poll had a 4.1 percent margin of error.

"Postpone the talks for a number of weeks," said 30.9% of the respondents; 18.5% wanted the talks postponed until after the next Knesset elections (scheduled for June 1996); and 17.8% wanted the talks ended "completely."

On the other hand, 12.4% wanted the talks accelerated, and 14.2% wanted them continued in their present format.

The rest "didn't know."

THE GRAVEST sections of the Judge Advocate-General's 15-page report of violations of the May 4, 1994, Cairo agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority are concluding sections 53 and 54, which do not pertain to the PA or to that agreement at all. They imply a serious defect in our national leadership.

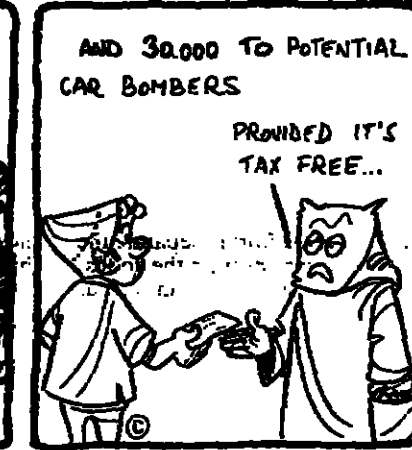
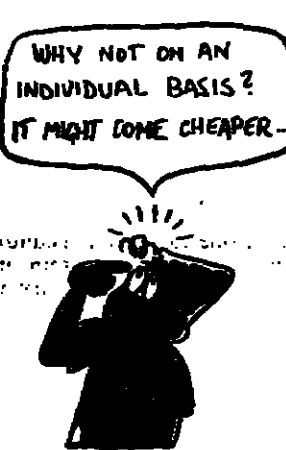
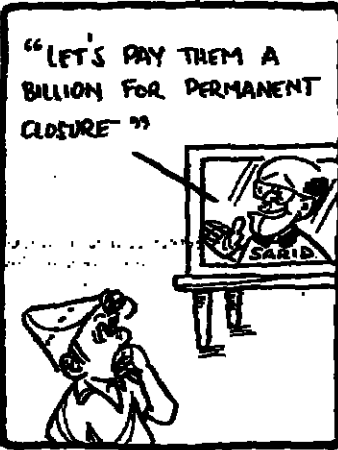
They state: "If this document is used in a presentation to the Palestinians, we recommend that the Israeli side equip themselves with detailed documents that include data and examples of the violation [at issue], in anticipation of a possible argument on the part of the Palestinians that the complaints have no factual basis..."

"...to enable continued treatment of violations, it would appear to be necessary to devise a mechanism that assembles all violations continuously, and to designate an entity that will determine how to treat violations."

Why hadn't all this been done long ago?

You will recall that Foreign Minister Peres had denied the existence of this report, written in December by Col. David Yahav, assistant judge advocate-general for international law, until Likud MK Binyamin Begin produced a copy at the January 23 meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

SRULIK



The never-changing, always-changing Law

SHABBAT SHALOM

SHLOMO RISKIN

"And you shall make an altar for the burning of incense out of acacia wood. It shall be square, a cubit long, a cubit wide, and two cubits high. The horns thereof shall be of the same. And you shall overlay it with pure gold." (Ex. 30:1-3)

Mishpatim, the first portion after the revelation at Sinai, was devoted chiefly to civil law, torts and questions of property damages, and was followed immediately by Truma's detailed descriptions of the Sanctuary. But Tetzaveh still finds us in the Sanctuary. In fact, five portions in the Book of Exodus deal with the Sanctuary - creating a 5:1 ratio between ritual detail and civil law.

Is the Sanctuary so much more important than societal relationships?

We may be able to illuminate this issue by turning from the Written Law to the Oral Law (the Talmud). Here we find the ratio of civil law to ritual law reversed. Interestingly enough, exploring the reasons for the Torah's approach to these two realms may also broaden our understanding of the Oral Law.

It is obvious that civil law, dealing as it does with the entire range of evolving human relationships, was beyond the scope of five books (or even 100 books). What God gave Moses in addition to those laws were basic

principles and guidelines, hermeneutic rules of development which would provide the basis for future interpretation and extrapolation. By the time we get to R. Ashi and Ravina (500 CE), there is a wealth of material dealing with the issues raised in Mishpatim, requiring volumes to record.

But when it came to recording the dialogues on aspects of the Sanctuary, there was far less to write down. The reason is simple. Incense holders, altars and shewbread don't evolve. Their constancy is a powerful symbol of the constancy of God.

And there may be another and even deeper reason. Judaism welcomes rabbinical additions to civil law - providing greater protection for the employee and the indigent, greater concern for the establishment of a "righteous and good" society. That, after all, is the goal of our Torah. Judaism is suspicious, however, of excessive additions to ritual law. Were not the sons of Aaron killed when they brought a fire which had not been divinely ordained?

Ritual excess can serve to confuse means with ends, substituting the form of worship for the object of worship.

the Sanctuary's construction, the story of the golden calf, a prime example of ritual gone haywire. A calf which was to be the means of reaching out to God instead became a god, and a festival meant to be a celebration of the divine turned into an orgy.

The golden calf debacle embodies the potential danger of ritual, with each person adding his own "vision." In order to counter the potential frenzy of ritual, it was necessary for God to be very precise as to how He wanted to be worshipped in the Sanctuary - to this point and no further - thus preventing the fanaticism that results from excess.

Therefore the Torah must be precise in what it wants for divine worship, and must record the fact that Moses and Aaron carried out the divine plan to the letter, but no further. Hence the Oral Law adds to the area of human relationships, but hardly at all to the details of the Sanctuary.

WE FIND the confluence and relative significance of these two elements - the laws between man and God and the laws between man and man, expressed in a fascinating halacha.

The climax of the service on Yom Kippur occurred when the high priest entered the Holy of

Holies and burned the incense - the holiest rendezvous between God and the high priest, which occurred only once a year.

What was the purpose of this act? Atonement for the Israelite sin of slander, with its source in the biblical record of the people slandering Moses. At that time God sent a plague, but Aaron "...ran into the midst of the congregation, and behold the plague had begun among the people, and he put on incense and made atonement for the people." (Numbers 17:12.)

Hence the descendants of Aaron (the high priest) must atone for the slander of the Israelites in every generation.

Ponder the significance of the lesson. On the holiest day of the year the high priest is busy seeking forgiveness, not for ritual infractions, but for a common sin among people. The Sanctuary is merely the means; inspiring people to act with sensitivity and compassion in their interpersonal relationships is the end.

It is precisely because the heavy rituals and golden reflections in the Sanctuary can lead to a confusion between ends and means that God made sure Moses recorded every immutable detail. But the laws governing slander would have to be constantly updated to better deal with political contexts and mass media, so they were left flexible.

Have we internalized this message? Shabbat Shalom!

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Doctrinaire method

CHESS

NIGEL DAVIES

Is teaching chess bad for one's play? There are conflicting opinions on this.

Working on chess with promising young players can be stimulating, but teaching weaker players can be more dangerous. To prevent them from making obvious errors, you may be tempted to teach them easy-to-remember rules: Develop knights before bishops; never put a knight on the edge of the board; rooks should go behind passed pawns.

The drawback for the teacher is you actually start thinking this way and, instead of playing spontaneously and intuitively, become robotic and stilted. Disciples of doctrines may appear knowledgeable, but they miss the subtlety that divides them from genuinely strong players.

If a pupils is mated on the back rank, it is tempting to tell him to move a kingside pawn early to prevent such disasters. But ask a grandmaster whether one should castle early, and he will give some diplomatic answer such as: "It all depends on the position."

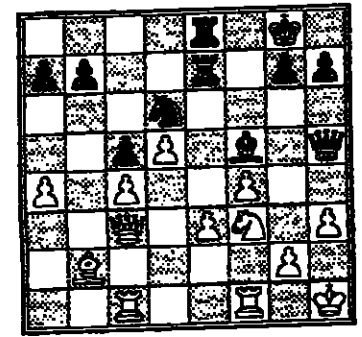
There are no easy answers. Making room for your king by advancing a pawn might be a good idea, but it can weaken your kingside. It all depends on the position. The following game was played in the recent Hastings Challengers tournament.

Volzhin, A. - Davies, N.

Nimzo-Indian Defense

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 d5 6.Nf3 c5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.a3 Bxc3 9.bxc3 Qc7 10.h3 dxc4 11.Bxc4 e5 12.Ba2 e4 13.Nb2 Ne7 14.c4 Nf5 15.d5 Qe5 16.Rb1 Nd6 17.Bb2 Qe5 18.Kh1 Nh5 19.Qe1 Bc7 20.Qc3 Rf8 21.Bh3 f5 22.a4 Re7 23.Bd1 f4?

Deciding upon an interesting double pawn sacrifice in order to penetrate on the light squares. 24.Bxh5 Qxh5 25.exf4 e3 26.fxe3 Bf5 27.Rc1 Rxe8 28.Nf3



White's 10.h3 was played with strategic ideas in mind and in itself is by no means bad. But it also creates a weakness which Black exploits with his next move (see above diagram).

28...Bxh3! 29.gxh3 Qxh3+?

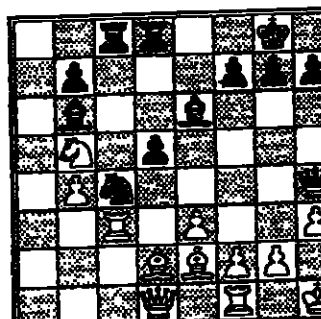
Overlooking White's 31st move in the mutual time scramble after which an interesting game rapidly degenerates. 29...Nf5!! would set up terrible threats to which we found no good defense in the postmortem. 30.Nh2 Ne4 31.Rf3! Qxf3+ 32.Nxf3 Nxc3 33.Bxc3 Rxc3 34.Ng5 Rf8 35.Be5 Rf5 36.Rd1! Rxe5! 37.fxe5 Rxe5 38.d6 Re8 39.Rb1 Rd8 40.Rxb7 Rxd6 41.Rxa7 Rd4 1/2-1/2

A GRAND Masters' Tournament is slated to start today at 3 p.m. at the Cafe Apropos in Rishon LeZion.

Players participating in the tournament are Alexander Goldin, Ronen Har-Zvi, Emil Sutovsky, Alex Finkel, Eran Liss, Mikhail Oratovsky, Boris Alterman, Leonid Shmutter, Avigdor Bihovsky, Viktor Mikhalevsky, Artur Kogan and myself.

Play will continue until February 22, with free days on February 18 and 21.

THIS WEEK'S problem is from another Hastings Challengers game in which I played Black against Jurgen-Gersinska of Germany. Black to play and win (see diagram).



Solution: Once again the weakness of White's kingside was shown up with 1...Bxh3! after which 2.gxh3 Qxh3+ 3.Kg1 Rg6 left White facing the threat of mate with 4...Rg6. In desperation he played 5.Bh5 Nxd2 6.Rxc6 bxc6 7.Qxd2 Qxh5 8.Nd4 but after 8...Rd6 found himself facing the same threats again with a deficit of two pawns.



Egyptian vultures like this one can be seen in the wadis surrounding the Kinneret.

Sites for bird-watching

NATURE

D'VORA BEN SHAUL

WINTER is a very good time for bird-watching, particularly if you want to see migratory waterfowl and other winter residents.

Some bird-watching can easily be done in the garden or a nearby park or field where there are shrubs and trees. But for serious waterfowl observation you will probably need to go where there are more birds.

Wherever you live there is probably a good site nearby. Such places are also wonderful places for winter hikes, which are much easier on a sunny winter day than in the hot season; and almost all sites are excellent places to have a picnic and see wildflowers.

In the north, the best place to observe waterfowl and a lot of other birds is the Golan, where small ponds and lakes often have flocks of wintering ducks, especially tufted ducks, pochard and widgeon.

In the grasslands there are winter flocks of chaffinches, greenfinches, goldfinches and finches, with the occasional brambling.

NATURE

D'VORA BEN SHAUL

Also, be sure to look for both Calandra and Isabelline larks.

Isabelline is a special color of dirty white that is specifically a zoological term and appears in many species.

The origin is said to date from Queen Isabella of Spain, who vowed not to change her clothes until her king returned from the Crusades. He was gone over a decade and the color "Isabelline" is said to be that of her garments when he got home.

Surprisingly, the Kinneret doesn't attract many waterfowl, only small numbers of grebes and ducks. But the area surrounding the lake, including Wadi Amud and Wadi Yehudiya, is rich in Egyptian and griffon vultures.

In the Beit She'an area, storks and wading birds, such as egrets and herons, and large numbers of ospreys, can be seen.

In the central region, many ducks and geese converge on

ponds. The areas of Ma'ayan Zvi and Ma'agan Michael have been made a wildlife refuge, and are rich in flocks of great black-headed gulls, Temmick's stunts, all three species of kingfishers and a growing number of citrine wagtails.

Jerusalem doesn't strike most people as a good place for bird-watching, but since the city is surrounded by forests and orchards it's possible to spot many Syrian woodpeckers and short-toed eagles.

Lesser kestrels are so common they nest right in the city on balconies and rooftops. In the orchards, there are spectacular flocks of yellowhammers and a few pine buntings.

But don't leave out the desert areas, which are popular wintering sites for passerine songbirds, raptors and even waterfowl around desert winter pools.

The best places are in the Dead Sea area, the Negev mountains, the Arava, and Eilat, where more migrating fowl can be seen than in almost any other place on earth.

Big prize money gives tourneys flair

BRIDGE

MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

West dealer East-West vulnerable

North (Forquet)
♠ AJ1087
♥ 8752
♦ 54
♣ K6

West
♠ 63
♥ K
♦ K107632
♣ A1064

East
♠ Q942
♥ Q93
♦ Q8
♣ J753

South (Sharif)
♠ K5
♥ AJ1064
♦ AJ9
♣ Q92

West pass
2♦
(all pass)

Forquet North pass 3♦

East pass double 4♥

Opening lead: ♦6

SOME of the world's top players are in town this week for the Israeli International Bridge Festival, which takes place daily at the Israeli Convention Center.

The top events this week include: a two-session mixed pairs on Sunday, February 12; a three-session open pairs starting on Monday; two one-session pairs games, Tuesday night and Wednesday afternoon; and a three-session Swiss teams, starting Wednesday night.

Afternoon sessions begin at 4, evening sessions at 8. The festival is sponsored by the Dubek cigarette company, and there is prize money in every event.

Sponsorship by corporations is not new to bridge. One of the first companies to offer substantial prizes was the Lancia corporation of Italy, 20 years ago. Together with Alitalia Airlines, it sent an all-star team to America to challenge four teams from New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and Miami. The team was to play in all four cities and if it lost, the American winners would each receive a new Lancia car.

Of course, it was not considered easy to defeat the Lancia team, because it included Italian Blue Team stars Benito Garozzo, Pietro Forquet and Giorgio Beladonna, plus actor Omar Sharif,

who is also a top-notch bridge player. But, miraculously, the team lost three out of the four matches, and the Lancia company had to make good on 13 cars.

Forquet, of Naples, is one of the stars that Israeli bridge players will get a chance to kibitz or play against this week. He was sitting North in today's diagram, which comes from the New York match. Forquet, who has 14 world championships to his credit, was partnered by Sharif.

After three passes, Sharif opened the bidding one heart with the South hand and West made an overcall of two diamonds. Forquet now cuebid three diamonds, an artificial bid that invited a game in hearts. If he had jumped to three hearts directly over two diamonds, he would have been showing a weak hand, so he had to cuebid to show the limit raise. Unfortunately for him, the cuebid allowed East to double. This double was the key to success for the defense, because West now got off to the killing lead of a diamond against Sharif's four-heart contract.

On the first trick, East played his queen of diamonds and Sharif won the ace. Sharif did his best by quickly cashing the ace of trump, dropping the king, and continuing with the jack. East won the queen of hearts on the second round and led a diamond to his partner. West cashed the ace of clubs and led a third round of diamonds, trumped by East with the nine of hearts. This was the setting trick.

Recently, at a panel show held at a tournament at the Dead Sea, the following question was posed to some of Israel's leading players: What is the biggest flaw in the average player's game? Matilda Lorner answered: "They play too many conventions."

Perhaps Forquet's three-diamond cuebid was an example, at the highest level, of how a convention can backfire, even in the hands of the world's best. Had he been able to jump to three hearts to invite game, rather than having to go through the route of cuebidding first, he would have avoided the lead-directing double by East, and West would probably have led a spade.

New shoes, glasses and a school trip

FUNDS

BEVERLEE BLACK

FORSAKE ME NOT

THE poverty and deprivation revealed by the media are the tip of the iceberg and we ignore it at our peril. So what can we do? From a macro point of view, not much. But from a micro perspective - plenty.

Working with social workers, we provide funds contributed by you. Many parents can't afford to pay the "extras" at school for going to museums or the theater, for materials for art lessons and trips. We help.

Israel's medical services don't pay for children who need glasses or dental treatment. We help. Large families need to pay a fortune for school books. We help. Shoes which are outgrown every few months cost an arm and a leg. We help.

Of course, the "we" here is really you, the reader. Together we're doing our bit, and if you send more, we'll do more. So please help today. The need is great. Send your checks to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

Donors in the US wishing to receive tax benefits can send their donations to: Friends of The Jerusalem Post Funds, 211 E. 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017. Please designate in your letter to which fund you wish to donate.

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Hilltop beauty with a historical twist

SEE IT HERE
HAIM SHAPIRO

THINK what you like about the Crusaders, but you have to admit that they had a fine eye for location.

A case in point is Belvoir, the castle known in Hebrew as Kachav Hayarden (star of the Jordan), perched on the edge of a hilltop, with a magnificent view of the Jordan River and the mountains beyond.

The Crusaders, of course, picked the spot for its strategic value, with a commanding view of the road below in the Jordan Valley, as well as the mountain passes to the East. However, despite these factors, Saladin captured the fortress in 1189.

But the location does mean that the only access to Belvoir is by a winding, narrow road which turns off the Beit She'an-Tzomah junction opposite Kibbutz Neveh Ur. The area has long been a backwater; now, the peace treaty with Jordan will place it on a tourist route, which should be increasingly traveled in the months and years to come.

The Belvoir fortress is remarkably well-preserved. The dry moat looks almost intact. Inside you'll find that although some of the ground floor has been restored, there are underground tunnels, stairways and passages that have hardly changed in 900 years.

THESE days, there is another reason to visit Belvoir - a large sculpture garden with the works of Tel Aviv artist Yigal Tumarkin. All are monumental in scale, and it is probably only in a dramatic setting such as this that they can be fully appreciated.

According to Ofer Grinstein,



A sculpture garden consisting of works by Yigal Tumarkin provides a contrast to the Belvoir fortress. (Grinstein/Israel Sun)

spokesman for the National Parks Authority, of which Belvoir is a part, the project elicited considerable response, far from all of it positive. But the Authority wanted public debate, he says. The question of whether to use historic sites as a background for contemporary art is still an open one, he adds.

Meanwhile, on the slope behind the fortress there is a far less ambitious project. The Authority has set out a series of topographical picture-maps identifying landmarks that are part of the panoramic view or just beyond it. Lesser-known sites are also identified, such as the Jordanian towns and villages just visible to the naked eye.

If one wanted to carp, one could, as did a member of our party, pointing out that, while the course of the Jordan is clear where the river is actually visible

from the lookout point, the unseen river is marked only by a barely discernible dotted line. I was far more concerned about the beautifully executed enamel signs, easy prey for those sick souls who are not happy until they have defaced something along their way. If you have a chance, go to see the signs now, while you have the chance.

Naturally, a visit to this part of the country at this time of year will reward the visitor with a fabulous spectacle of wildflowers. Unfortunately, one of the nicest ways to see these is barely passable for vehicles - the old British Mandatory road that runs from Belvoir to moshavim Molelet and Ramat Zvi and the village of Taiba.

If it has rained a few days before you go, you may find it rough going even in a four-wheel-drive vehicle along this route.

Kayaking offers unspoiled firsthand view of Cape Cod

STEVE SILK

THE real back roads in this part of the Cape aren't roads. They're rivers.

The watery arteries of the Pamet and the Herring lead directly to the still-wild heart of this much-trampled vacationland.

And there's no better way to explore those winding streams than aboard a sea kayak.

On one of these sleek and silent craft, you can slip beneath the oaks and red maples, past the pitch pines, rugosa roses and beach plum just as quietly as one of the kingfishers working the river.

You can watch painted turtles splash as they drop off sun-warmed logs, listen to the summery sounds of red-winged blackbirds or spy on circling hawks.

Let your gaze drift toward the horizon, where weather-beaten houses crest rolling moors and the whoosh of the far-off surf sounds like a roaring wind.

Sometimes, when the pogies are running, you might feel them drum against the hull of your boat as they surge upriver riding a tiny wave of their own making.

Running rivers is just the start of what you can do in a sea kayak on the Cape. There are kettle ponds to explore, waves to surf, bays to cruise and, for the intrepid and skillful, there's the three-kilometer paddle from Chatham out to the Monomoy Islands, where you can share the sea with harbor seals and gray seals.

Sea kayaking may also have a certain cachet among the local literary set - sometime Cape resident and globe-trotting writer Paul Theroux has been paddling around the Cape and out to the islands for years.

His stories in travel magazines may have helped to popularize the sport. Theroux's most recent travel book - *The Happy Isles of Oceania* - took him paddling through the islands of the South Pacific.

Don't be deterred by chilly images of Eskimos paddling among ice floes, of sealskin-suited Nanooks slinging harpoons, or even of a hard-charging, closer-to-home paddler sealed into an six-meter splinter of an easily flipped boat.

The sport of sea kayaking need only be as difficult - or as easy - as you choose. A first-timer can settle into an open-cockpit kayak as easily as onto a Barcelona lounge. It's something like sitting atop a big surfboard, albeit one with a keel, to make tracking (traveling in a straight line) easier.



Professional paddler Eric Gustafson maneuvers through the Pamet River. (Tony Bacewicz)

Sea kayaks are also typically longer and sleeker than those used in rivers. Traditionally, they are used in open water.

The boats are tippy - no worse than a canoe - but maneuverable.

An open cockpit cuts the novice's fear factor greatly - you aren't connected to your kayak with a spray skirt, so if the craft flips, you simply slide off the boat and into the water. (In kayaking, a spray skirt is the snug neoprene skirt worn around the paddler's waist and fitted onto the kayak's cockpit.)

Paddling a sea kayak is a breeze. Eric Gustafson, a kayaking guide who works the Outer Cape, has taken his 80-year-old grandmother out paddling. And he has taken kids as young as eight.

More regularly, Gustafson, a ski patroller at Mount Snow in Vermont in winter and instructor of surfing and windsurfing in summer, can be seen leading small groups of novice kayakers through the rivers, bays and waves of the Cape.

His aptly named business, Fun-seekers Ltd., introduces many a first-timer to the singular joys of paddle travel.

One of the most popular runs is the Pamet River, a mostly freshwater stream flowing haphazardly across the outer Cape from just inside the dunes at Ballston Beach to Pamet Harbor and Cape Cod Bay.

On the map, the Pamet looks like a series of squiggly, skinny lines interrupted by chubby ellipses. With its many twisting turns,

dead ends and interlinked channels, the river invites exploration.

One of Gustafson's typical two-hour paddles on the Pamet leads through a changing landscape of hillsides, moors and freshwater marsh.

On the river, Gustafson says paddlers usually fall into one of two camps.

Some are racers, with wind-milling paddles that propel them upstream and down with scenery-blurring speed.

Others are more content to go with the flow, with one eye on the river and the other trained on the abundant flora and fauna.

They know there's no reason to hurry. After all, it's only a back road. (The Hartford Courant)

Join a seder in the Arctic

WITH many Israelis beginning to think about Pessah excursions, Geographical Tours, in conjunction with Visa, is offering a 15-day excursion to Baffin Island in northern Canada, with part of the accommodation in igloos and a seder in the Arctic Ocean. The company also has an eight-day tour of Lapland, including transport on snowmobiles and dogsleds, for \$2,690, including flights.

ISSTA reports that because Pessah is at the same time as Easter this year, prices abroad are likely to be high. The company is offering Pessah charters for students and young people for \$349 to London and \$359 to Paris. Natour's offerings for the holiday include an 18-night tour of Singapore and Indonesia, including Bali, for \$3,900, as well as seven-night tour of Mexico for \$2,180. For those who want to stay closer to home, the company has a 15-night tour of France for \$1,964. All prices include flights.

BEFORE THE Pessah holiday, many local resorts have special deals. Kibbutz Afik in the southern Golan Heights is offering a three-day package which includes three entries to Hamat Gader and full board for NIS 330. For groups of between seven and 14 participants, the kibbutz has a four-hour cowboy program, which includes a lesson in cowboy riding, a chance to participate in the roundup, a jeep tour and a cowboy dinner. The price is NIS 350 per person.

Special winter rates are available from several of the tourist facilities in Western Galilee. At Beit Hava in Shavei Zion, a night with breakfast for a couple is NIS 225 (NIS 250 on weekends); the nightly rate for a couple at Kibbutz Moran is NIS 150, at Kibbutz Lotan it's NIS 120, at Kibbutz Yehiam, NIS 144, and at the Achziv Resort Club, NIS 140.

To Our Readers

Some of the advertisements appearing in our papers are type set outside The Post. When such an advertisement arrives just before the publication deadline, especially when it is provided in the form of a film, it is difficult for us to correct any spelling mistakes that may appear.

While we make every effort to correct such errors, we must ask our readers' indulgence for those occasions when this is not possible.

The Advertising Department

TRAVEL TIPS

HAIM SHAPIRO

Kibbutz Kfar Hanassi, north of the Kinneret, has a package which includes kayaking on the Jordan and a Japanese cosmetic treatment or massage. The price, per couple, including breakfast, is NIS 259 for Sunday through Wednesday and NIS 279 for Thursday through Saturday.

VISITORS TO Netanya hotels are to receive a booklet with reduction vouchers for local attractions. Among the hotels offering special deals are the King Solomon, with a nightly rate of NIS 142.50 per person, the Galilee, NIS 95, Residence, NIS 80, Residence Beach, NIS 115, and the Stronit, NIS 70. Among the hotels offering reductions on singles is the Maxim, which charges NIS 160 for a couple and NIS 110 for a single, and the Galei Sharon, NIS 110 for a couple and NIS 80 for a single. The Tayelet Hotel has a suite with kitchenette for a couple for NIS 400 for two days and NIS 550 for three days, while a suite for four is NIS 600 for two days, NIS 800 for three.

TOURS FEATURING the Jew-

ish heritage of Morocco are being featured by two separate organizers. In March, Ophir tours has what it describes as an extensive geographical tour in conjunction with Shorashim, led by Itzik Lugasi. The price of the 17-day trip is \$2,350, including air fare and half board.

In May, there is to be a 12-day tour, in English, organized by Jerusalem's Zintours, in conjunction with the Hebrew University's Rothberg School for Overseas Students, and led by Professors Yedida and Norman Stillman. A short course on Moroccan Jewry is scheduled to precede the tour. The price is \$2,150.

THE VISA Corporate Hotel Directory for the company's Business Card and Gold Card holders lists some 8,000 hotels around the world where credit-card holders are offered corporate rates and/or preferential service.

THE Schiphol Airport of Amsterdam was named best in Europe by readers of the German edition of *Business Traveler*, according to KLM. The airline also reports that in a world survey of business travelers, Singapore Airport was judged best, with Schiphol coming in second.

Tips for the kayaker

SEA kayakers - novice or advanced - can find a wealth of opportunities on Massachusetts' Cape Cod. Many shops specializing in outdoor sports equipment rent kayaks; inquire locally. Be sure to get a flotation cushion or, if you're venturing into open water, a life jacket with your rental.

Before you set out to sea, be sure you are dressed appropriately. A T-shirt may be fine at the start, but if the wind kicks up, a cold front blows through or the sun sinks behind the clouds, you may want something warmer.

Cotton clothing will not keep you warm if it gets wet. Take along a pullover of wool or of a synthetic fabric designed to whisk moisture away from the surface of your skin.

Also bring sunscreen and water, juice or soda. Keep a change of clothing in your car or the vehicle that picks you up after the trip. Eric Gustafson leads a variety of kayak trips on the Outer Cape. Most are suitable for beginners, although some experience in a canoe is helpful. For more information, write Funseekers Ltd., P.O. Box 1143, Wellfleet, Mass. 02667, or call (508) 349-1429.

A more traditional approach to sea kayaking - using sit-in rather than sit-on boats, is offered by H2Outfitters in West Yarmouth. Most of its trips operate out of Goose Hummock, a sporting-goods shop in Orleans. For more information, call H2Outfitters 15 Alden Road, West Yarmouth, Mass. 02673, or call (508) 775-4642.

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EILAT and the NEGEV

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The Children of Israel passed by during their forty years of wandering, King Solomon built his navy here, the Queen of Sheba visited, the Scandinavians come in their droves and now The Jerusalem Post Travel Club and Shorashim are running a stimulating and informative English-speaking 4-day tour. We'll pick you up in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, visit Jebel Chofera and the Paran River Valley, Wadi Musa, Ein Evrona and the Gate of Peace on our way to Eilat. We'll visit the Timna Park, Solomon's Pillars, The "Mushroom," the Bronze Caves, Moon Valley, Mt. Uziyahu, Red Canyon and more, much more. We'll stay at the Red Sea Paradise Hotel, recently built with super facilities, 3 swimming pools, health club, sauna, jacuzzi, kid's club, etc. In the morning we'll have tours, afternoons are for relaxation, and evenings for lectures and to do as you please.

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Prognosis bad for heart of the city

Poor planning has clogged Jerusalem's arteries, leaving it with a weakened heart, Bill Hutman reports

URI Ben-Asher, Jerusalem's new chief city planner, raised eyebrows when he challenged a policy long considered too holy to criticize publicly.

But he was praised for speaking frankly about an issue that has tugged at the nation's conscience since the city's reunification in 1967: whether Jerusalem was being built up in the proper fashion.

The consensus at City Hall was that Ben-Asher was right in lashing out at politics being put ahead of planning considerations in the capital.

"Planning for Jerusalem is done by government offices to serve political ends, and not with an eye to urban factors," Ben-Asher told the city's building and planning committee.

"Such planning is unhealthy for the city," said Ben-Asher, who began working in the post in December, putting him in charge of all aspects of urban planning in the capital.

The former Interior Ministry planner, who headed the Jerusalem District Planning Committee was speaking at the committee hearing on the controversial plan to build a Jewish neighborhood at Har Homa in southern Jerusalem.

His remarks were clearly a swipe at the plan, which as expected passed the committee easily by a vote of 7-1. But he went further, questioning Israel's development policy for Jerusalem since 1967.

In particular, he lashed out at the long-held government policy of pushing for construction of large Jewish neighborhoods around central Jerusalem, for demographic and strategic reasons.

The new neighborhoods were built with an eye to their quick population, often before the proper infrastructure and public services were built to make them livable, Ben-Asher told the councillors.

A report issued by the city this week reviewed that quick development: In 1970, Jerusalem was 108,000 dunams and had a population of about 290,000. Today, the city covers 123,000 dunams — following the 1992 annexation of 15,000 dunams just west of the city and part of Ramat Rahel, a kibbutz wedged between the southern neighborhoods of East Talpuz and Talpuz — and has nearly doubled its population.

Ben-Asher closed his presentation to the committee with the metaphor that seemed to sum up his view of this fast development: "The city of Jerusalem looks like a man with clogged arteries, all fat on the outside and a weak heart in the middle."

He clearly caught the councillors' attention. Afterwards, both opposition and coalition members said they were pleasantly surprised by Ben-Asher's willingness to speak his mind, especially so soon after taking his post.



The new neighborhood of Shuafat Ridge is a recent example of the kind of planning criticized by Uri Ben-Asher. (Flash 90)

A few days later, the councillors received an excellent example of what Ben-Asher was talking about.

Indeed, Ben-Asher, together with planning committee chairman Deputy Mayor Uri Lupoliansky, at the subsequent committee meeting took a step that, using Ben-Asher's own metaphor, seemed to only add extra pounds to obese Jerusalem.

On Monday, the two presented an emergency measure before the planning committee, aimed at allowing the population of Jerusalem's newest neighborhood, Shuafat Ridge, before proper public institutions are built there.

The building code forbids families to move into new neighborhoods without kindergartens,

schools and synagogues, and the measure that passed on Monday was aimed at getting around the regulation.

Families would be allowed to enter their apartments, and the city would provide mobile homes to temporarily house the public institutions pending completion of the permanent buildings, the committee agreed.

If there were any doubts that the experience at Shuafat Ridge would be different from that of any other large new Jewish neighborhood built on the outer rim of eastern Jerusalem since 1967, Monday's decision crushed them.

Ben-Asher declined to be interviewed this week. A city spokesman said Ben-Asher thought it improper to explain his

views in the media before he presented them to the mayor and city council.

Ben-Asher's predecessor as chief engineer, Elinor Barzacki, says Shuafat Ridge provides a case study of the role politics play in planning Jerusalem.

The land was originally expropriated from Arab residents of the nearby neighborhood of Shuafat for public use, according to Barzacki.

Former mayor Teddy Kollek wanted to build a soccer stadium there. But haredi leaders were against the move, on grounds games there on Shabbat would disturb area haredi neighborhoods.

The municipality gave in to the haredi pressure and the stadium

was built in the southern neighborhood of Malha. The expropriated land was rezoned for a Jewish neighborhood.

Why Jewish and not Arab? Barzacki says the answer is easy: Politics. Ramot, Pisgat Ze'ev, Neveh Ya'akov were all built with the same idea in mind — to create a belt of Jewish development around eastern Jerusalem.

Shuafat Ridge will close off the possibility for development of the Arab neighborhood of Shuafat to the west. To the east, Pisgat Ze'ev has already prevented the expansion of Arab neighborhoods.

It's no secret, Barzacki explains, that the government has tried to enforce a strict limit on Arab development in Jerusalem

while pushing Jewish population growth.

However, it would be wrong to see the Arab-Israeli conflict as the only influence on planning in the city, she adds. "When I talk about politics, I'm talking about more than Jews and Arabs."

"There are also social and economic factors, which fall under the term 'political,' which have played a major role in the development of Jerusalem, as in the rest of the country," Barzacki says.

Israel has been a country of great immigration, and homes had to be built fast and inexpensively for many of those newcomers, notes Barzacki, who today is the deputy director of Tel Aviv University's school of architecture.

The city also had to meet the needs of its fast-growing haredi population, which brings us back to Shuafat Ridge, which is on its way to becoming the city's newest haredi neighborhood.

Several hundred haredi families will begin moving into homes there in the coming months, with a total of 2,100 units in advanced stages of construction.

Barzacki says there was no room to build large neighborhoods except on the capital's outskirts, in places like Shuafat Ridge.

It was natural, she says, for planners to look to undeveloped lands newly annexed to the city to build new neighborhoods.

It was not natural, however, to build only for Jews. "That was one of our biggest mistakes," she says.

As to the lack of kindergartens, schools and synagogues at Shuafat Ridge, Barzacki says that last year she wanted to hold up construction until plans for public institutions were ready.

City leaders, however, listened to the louder and increasingly influential voice of the haredi public. Haredi families wanted the homes on which, in many cases, they had already put down much money for, and would not accept delays.

Barzacki was forced out of her post immediately following the decision to move ahead with construction of Shuafat Ridge.

"Politics is not a dirty word," she says. "It is simply a reflection of the various needs of a society." Her successor now has the chance to show how he handles those needs.

Two dynasties merge into one with huge celebration

Everybody was there to see the Bobover and Vishnitzer rebbes. Herb Keinon reports on the hassidic wedding of the year

HAD visitors from abroad taken a wrong turn out of Tel Aviv Tuesday night and ended up on Bnei Brak's Shalom Square, they might have felt that they had stumbled into a different world.

They would have seen some 20,000 people standing in pouring rain and gazing at an elevated platform that looked like a huge boxing ring. In the middle, underneath a green velvet canopy dripping with rain, a woman whose face was completely hidden behind a white veil walked seven times around a furiously swaying young man in black coat and white scarf. An a-cappella choir sang soulfully sweet, wordless melodies.

The occasion was the wedding of Benzion Meisles, grandson of the Bobover rebbe, and Haiya Ernest, granddaughter of the Vishnitzer rebbe. It was a union of two of the largest hassidic dynasties.

"*Boruch hoba*," the master of ceremonies called out in heavily Polish-accented Hebrew. The crowd, which had begun gathering in the square at 6 p.m., fell silent as the Bobover rebbe, who came to the wedding from the U.S., and the Vishnitzer rebbe, who lives in Bnei Brak, made their way to the platform. With the crowd silent, the dominant sound was that of the wind rustling through the thousands of plastic bags worn to protect fur-trimmed streimels from the rain.

The masses who filled the streets, the men holding torches on the platform, the moon cutting in and out of quickly racing clouds, the oy-yo-yo niggun of the choir, all created a reality that seemed of another place, of another time.

"The mitzva is to have the huppa under the sky, regardless of the weather," explained one Bobover hassid who acted as my unofficial guide. "The rain doesn't make a difference."

It really didn't. Although the wind was cold, and rain fell periodically, the crowd waited patiently. When it rained, the drops ricocheted off hundreds of black umbrellas that automatically went up and formed a vinyl roof, stretching across the width of the street and the length of the crowd. The bodies, tightly packed against each other (men completely separated from the

women), created a windbreak.

A FEW who had binoculars tried to catch a glimpse of what was going on under the drenched huppa. Others strained for a view by pushing their glasses further up the bridges of their noses and squinting. But from where most people were standing, very little could be seen of the ceremony.

But seeing was not important; being there was what mattered. "The main thing is just to be here," said my Bobover guide. "The main thing is to be in the presence of the rabbis, of the righteous people. And in their presence, you are in the presence of their righteous ancestors as well."

This man's son stood about hip-high, and was squashed in between walls of legs, thighs and waists. All he could see was the black garb of those standing in front of him, and — when he looked up — a small part of the black sky as it appeared through the moving clouds. The boy passed the time by identifying the voices of the rabbis who recited the blessings beneath the canopy. The shattering of the glass under the groom's shoe at the end of the ceremony was not heard. Instead, what was heard was the wedding party's shout of "*mazel tov, mazel tov*." The cry was taken up by the crowd. The wordless, slow melodies of the choir were abruptly replaced by the upbeat sound of songs wishing the couple well.

In unison, thousands of people turned around and streamed down the street toward buses that would take them to the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds for the wedding meal. A few groups linked arms and danced to the music down the wet, glistening street, their umbrellas bobbing.

Guests were met at the fairground by multicolored banners with verses from Psalms that read, "The righteous will flourish like the palm tree; they will grow like a cedar in Lebanon."

Four halls were set up, two for the men and two for the women. In the main hall, a head table was set up for about 100 leading haredi rabbis. The groom was flanked by the Bobover and Vishnitzer rebbes, and sat immediately under a huge crown that was suspended from the ceiling. Before him was a sea of tables,



Wedding guests marvel at two special super-sized hallot.

(Hanan Gutman)

and — at the back of the hall — rows of bleachers packed with clean-faced yeshiva students who stood for hours pushing, swaying and singing.

Waiters served schnitzel, rice and carrots on plastic plates, wrapped in aluminum foil. They wore green sashes on the sleeves of their black jackets and pulled plate after plastic plate from what seemed like an endless supply of Kinley soft-drink cartons.

Everybody seemed to be pushing everybody else. People pushed to get inside the hall, and

ran up against those pushing to get out. They pushed to get to the tables, and then again to get away from the tables. They pushed to get to the bleachers and pushed to get off the bleachers. Ruddy-cheeked students pushed, as did graybeards. It was a claustrophobic nightmare.

"People want to see the rabbis, watch how they interact," said one Bobover hassid Haim Davidovitch. "They want to feel their presence."

"Feeling their presence" explained why the main hall was

packed, while a second hall for the men, where a floor-to-ceiling television screen broadcast what was happening in the other hall, was only a quarter full. There the hassidim could see close-up shots of the rabbis, but could not feel their presence.

"I'm used to the pushing. It doesn't bother me," said one Vishnitzer hassid pressed up against a side wall in the main hall. "The sages say that he who is pushed trying to catch a glimpse of the righteous merits a reward in the world to come."

The Ezra Youth Movement has established a fund to write a *Sefer Torah* in memory of **NACHSHON WACHSMAN** נחשון, who was an active member and madrich in Ramot, Jerusalem.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1995

15

Vote delayed on ICL sale

Knesset panel concerned Eisenberg will gain too much power

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset Finance Committee yesterday deferred a vote on the sale of Israel Chemicals to Shaul Eisenberg, due to concern it would give Eisenberg control over too large a slice of the economy.

The committee will discuss the issue again on Monday, and is slated to vote then as well.

Another threat to the sale came from the employees' objections. Two coalition MKs said they would vote against the deal if the workers' interests are not protected, and these two, together with the opposition, could prevent approval.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish, at the suggestion of committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor), plan to meet with workers and management this morning to try to iron out the differences.

The concern over the extent of Eisenberg's holdings was bipartisan, spearheaded by Gal and Dan

Tichon (Likud). Through his Israel Corporation, Eisenberg already controls several large companies, including Israel Oil Refineries, Pryon, Spectronics, Cold Storage, and Israel Shipping and Lighterage. However, his bid of \$230.3 million for a 24.9 percent stake in ICL was the best offer the government received.

Gal said after the meeting that the committee is faced with a dilemma.

"We don't want the buyers to concentrate too many companies in their own hands," he said in press statement. "But if we toe this line, we won't find a buyer of the [necessary] magnitude."

Gal said that despite his doubts, he is inclined to approve the deal. It is not the end of the world if it is not approved, he said, since the tender will simply be reopened - but this entails a risk that the privatization of large

government companies will grind to a halt.

Tichon and Ron Nahman (Likud), in contrast, vigorously opposed the sale. Nahman said the goal of privatization was to disperse economic power, not further concentrate it, and that ICL could not be sold to someone like Eisenberg, who already controls "half the country."

Tichon added that ICL is too important to be sold to Eisenberg, who, he claimed, had abandoned other companies such as Ata and Zim when the going got tough.

Avraham Poraz (Meretz) was one of the few MKs who strongly favored the sale.

"I'm for privatization, and [Eisenberg] made the best offer," he said. "There is no legal justification for not selling to the highest bidder, unless there is some reason to disqualify him - and the

fact that he owns other companies is not a reason to disqualify him."

Meanwhile, after employee representatives besieged the committee yesterday, Yossi Vanunu and Shmuel Avital (Labor), both from the Negev (where most of ICL's plants are located), said they would not support the sale if the workers' concerns were not addressed. Vanunu said, that their collective agreement will be honored by the new owners, as a protection against being fired.

Vanunu said he and Avital had been promised that ICL's management would meet with the workers, that Shohat and Harish would try to arbitrate if no agreement was reached, and that if this also failed, the issue would be brought to the Finance Committee.

"But none of these things happened," he said. "They made a mockery of us."

Trade and the troika

COMMENT

NEIL COHEN

IT was pure coincidence that the delegation from the European Union (known as the "troika") was visiting when the terrible monthly trade deficit figures were announced. But the two are certainly related.

The Foreign Ministry is trying hard to persuade the government to sign the new trade "agreement" it has "negotiated" with the EU. It is not often that we agree with the Trade and Industry Ministry or the Agriculture Ministry, but both are quite right in saying that we might just as well hang out a white flag as sign the agreement.

The Foreign Ministry, with its obsequious ghetto mentality, views the very fact that the Europeans are talking to us as a major achievement. Given that they run a \$7.5 billion annual trade surplus with us it would be astonishing if they did not!

The Foreign Ministry, though, would, for example, have us pay a \$30 million annual fee for membership in the EU research and development projects club without getting any say in how those projects were allocated.

Whether or not we would see a penny of return on our investment would be decided at the whim

of Mr. Juppe and his pals - the same ones who sell arms to countries sworn to our destruction but maintain an embargo on selling arms to us.

The Foreign Ministry, hell-bent on creating its "new Middle East," says that its no matter that we're being raped, so long as he's from a good family and anyway, don't confuse me with details. That's one hell of a way to negotiate.

Agriculture Ministry strikes back

Most people probably could not believe their eyes or ears when confronted with the news that the Agriculture Ministry was destroying vegetables because it anticipated and oversupply in the next few months and wanted to stop prices from falling.

It was only a couple of months ago that tomatoes were selling for NIS 10 a kilo and vegetables were fueling a surge in inflation. Curiously, the Farmers Ministry was a lot less swift in organizing imports to try to curb the price-gougers.

And where was the good Lady Namir? Aren't there enough poor people in this country? If we can destroy vegetables we can certainly give them to the needy.

Harry Recanati to court: Sack brother from IDB

Petition demands IDB sell Discount Bank shares

EVELYN GORDON

IDB Bankholding should be forced to sell part or all of its 13% stake in Bank Discount, and chairman Rafael Recanati should be forced to resign, Recanati's brother Harry demanded of the High Court of Justice yesterday.

The request was an addition to a petition filed by Harry in September, which asked that a commission of inquiry be set up to determine why his brother is still running IDB, despite his criminal

conviction in the bank shares trial last spring and the recommendations of the 1986 Bejski Commission.

The petition said such a commission should also investigate why the state, which acquired IDB after the 1983 bank shares collapse, sold it back to Recanati on preferential terms a couple of years ago.

In yesterday's request, attorney Michael Corinaldi noted that by law, anyone who buys more than 10% of a bank must receive a permit from the Bank of Israel. If the buyer fails to do this, the governor of the central bank has the right to force him to sell any shares in excess of 10%.

Harry Recanati charges that IDB bought its stake in Discount piecemeal - never purchasing more than 10% at one time - to avoid having to obtain a permit. However, Corinaldi said, last year's Supreme Court ruling on whether Discount needed a permit to buy 50% of what was then Barclay's Discount explicitly said "piecemeal purchases" do not need a permit if the total bought exceeds 10%.

Therefore, he wrote, IDB was in violation of the law, and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel should force it to sell its excess holdings.

With regard to Rafael Recanati, it's continued tenure as chairman of IDB, Corinaldi cited the Bejski report's recommendation: "Mr. Recanati is not fit to continue in his positions at Discount and IDB, or [to hold] any other position in the Israeli banking system, including branches both in Israel and abroad," the report stated.



Rafael Recanati. (Isaac Harari)

Therefore, Corinaldi said, the court should order Frenkel and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat to oust Recanati.

In a letter to Corinaldi submitted with the request, however, Treasury legal advisor Tamar Hecker said Frenkel lacks any legal authority to depose Recanati as chairman of IDB, because it is not a bank, and Frenkel's powers extend only to banks.

While it is true that the Bejski Commission recommended amending the law to extend the governor's authority to bank-holding companies, this was never done, she said - apparently, she added, because the government and the Knesset thought depositors' interests were adequately protected under the current law.

"It was not considered appropriate to amend the law just so that Rafael Recanati could be ousted from the chairmanship of IDB," she wrote.

There is also no need for a commission of inquiry, Hecker added, because all the issues raised in the petition have been thoroughly investigated by the state comptroller.

THE trade deficit soared 59.5 percent last month to a record \$1.1 billion, as exports shrank 6.8% and imports jumped 13%, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

Exports fell to \$1.37b. from \$1.47b. in December, while imports rose to \$2.37b. from \$2.1b.

Production input imports jumped 14.9% to \$1.69b., as fuel imports shot up 76.4% to \$224 million, from \$127m. in December. Consumer imports increased 13.4% to \$290m., from \$245m.

Seasonally adjusted figures, excluding ships, airplanes and diamonds, show a drop in exports of 14% in November, December, and January compared with the previous three months. By contrast, imports were 9% higher than in the preceding three

months.

During the past three months, the deficit expanded by \$300m., due to a \$150m. rise in imports and a similar drop in exports.

Industrial exports fell 14% compared with the previous three months. Electronics and machinery exports fell by a quarter, after jumping by 16% in the preceding three months. Mining and quarrying exports dropped 12%, while optics, precision machinery and jewelry exports fell 8%. Similarly, food and beverage exports decreased 5% and textile and clothing 4%. By contrast, plastic and rubber exports jumped 18%, while chemical exports rose a more moderate 5%.

Diamond exports averaged

\$333m. a month in the past three months, a 7% rise.

Agricultural exports increased 4% this season to \$234m.

Consumer imports averaged \$264m. a month in the past three months, unchanged from the previous three months. Non-durable imports fell 7%, while imports of cars rose 4.5% and electric appliances 5%.

Production input imports, excluding diamonds and fuel, increased 9%, after growing 3.5% in August through October.

Fuel imports jumped 15% in the past three months. Investment goods imports, such as machinery, equipment, and vehicles, surged 14% in the past three months, with commercial vehicle imports shooting up 25%.

Trade deficit soars in January

JOSE ROSENFELD

Rosen drops out of race for El Al chairman

HAIM SHAPIRO

TRANSPORT Minister Yisrael Kessar will have to find another candidate to head the board of El Al, after Yossi Rosen, the former director-general of Arkia, dropped out because of a conflict of interest.

Rosen is the head of Mishab, a subsidiary of Koor and Clal, both of which have voiced an interest in buying the airline once it is privatized.

Another candidate who dropped out yesterday was Michael Federman, who heads the Dan Hotel chain, which could conflict with the interests of El Al's subsidiary, the Laromne chain.

The board is due to take over next week, when the national airline officially emerges from 13 years of receivership.

Dollar should make up 85% of currency basket - Brodet

JOSE ROSENFELD

TREASURY director-general David Brodet yesterday called on the Bank of Israel to significantly increase the weight of the dollar in the currency basket to improve trade terms.

According to Brodet, the dollar should make up to 85 percent of the currency basket instead of 53%, currently. He noted that while the currency basket rose by about 6% last year, the dollar's value barely changed against the shekel.

Treasury spokesman Eli Yoseph explained that Brodet wants the currency basket's make-up to be re-evaluated to reflect the ratio of dollar-linked trade, since the weights assigned to the five currencies that make up the basket have not been changed since its creation 10 years ago.

Bank of Israel spokesman Ohad Bar-Efrat rejected Yoseph's explanation, saying that every year, the central bank reviews the volume of trade of the different currency blocks and adjusts the ratio of each currency in the basket accordingly.

Bank of Israel director of foreign currency Avi Ben-Bassat sharply criticized Brodet.

IAI workers to strike Monday

ISRAEL Aircraft Industries workers plan to strike Monday morning, following a breakdown in talks between management and workers yesterday evening.

"We will convene a 9:00 a.m. workers committee meeting be-

hind closed doors on Sunday," said National Union of IAI Workers secretary Haim Katz, "and as of Monday all IAI industries will be closed until further notice."

Rachel Neiman

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WORLD MARKET REPORTS
● The US T-bond market ended last week with a strong rally on a positive employment report, but has been unable to hold the gains in front of the Treasury re-financing. The benchmark 30yr T-bond yield has fallen by 10bps over the week. The market is focused on the January PPI data, released today after our deadline. The market expects a 0.4% increase. The growing confidence that interest rates have peaked led by Wednesday, and there is little to stimulate much interest. The narrow trading range is likely to continue.
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Key Representative Rates	
US dollar	NIS 3.0220 -0.23%
Sterling	NIS 4.7052 +0.04%
Mark	NIS 1.9761 +0.08%

INTEL STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

Index	Value	Change
DJ Industrial	3533.02	+0.35
DJ Transp.	1091.4	+0.39
DJ Util.	1091.4	+0.39
DJ Comp.	3533.02	+0.35
NASDAQ	2572.00	+0.61
NYSE	2572.00	+0.61
S&P 500	2572.00	+0.61
S&P 500 Ind.	2572.00	+0.61
AMEX	2572.00	+0.61

NYSE stocks

Share	Advances	Declines
Volume	752	1075
Volume up (in 1000s)	12254	12254
Volume down (in 1000s)	12254	12254

Other stock market indexes

Index	Value	Change
FTSE 100	3094.2	+2.5
DAX	1891.5	+1.7
Nikkei	1511.9	+1.4
Hong Kong Hang Seng	8254.58	+20.85
Shanghai	150.34	+0.97

Israeli stocks in NY

Stock	Price	Change
Ami	45.5	+0.5
Ami A	45.5	+0.5
Ami B	45.5	+0.5
Ami C	45.5	+0.5
Ami D	45.5	+0.5
Ami E	45.5	+0.5
Ami F	45.5	+0.5
Ami G	45.5	+0.5
Ami H	45.5	+0.5
Ami I	45.5	+0.5
Ami J	45.5	+0.5
Ami K	45.5	+0.5
Ami L	45.5	+0.5
Ami M	45.5	+0.5
Ami N	45.5	+0.5
Ami O	45.5	+0.5
Ami P	45.5	+0.5
Ami Q	45.5	+0.5
Ami R	45.5	+0.5
Ami S	45.5	+0.5
Ami T	45.5	+0.5
Ami U	45.5	+0.5
Ami V	45.5	+0.5
Ami W	45.5	+0.5
Ami X	45.5	+0.5
Ami Y	45.5	+0.5
Ami Z	45.5	+0.5

NYSE / AMEX

Index	Value	Change
NYSE	2572.00	+0.61
AMEX	2572.00	+0.61

NASDAQ / over-the-counter

Index	Value	Change
NASDAQ	2572.00	+0.61

FTSE 100

Index	Value	Change
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Index	Value	Change
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Hong Kong Hang Seng

Index	Value	Change
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Shanghai

Index	Value	Change
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London metal futures

Commodity	Price	Change
Gold	378.8	+0.5
Silver	378.8	+0.5
Copper	150.34	+0.97
Aluminum	150.34	+0.97
Zinc	150.34	+0.97
Nickel	150.34	+0.97
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London metal futures

Silver (Mar)	4.757
Platinum (Apr)	414.2
Palladium (Mar)	158.95
High-grade copper (Mar)	1.3155

BAKA, 3.5, Arab house, Sukkha balcony, decorated, 1st floor, quiet street. Exclusive to SHIRAN, Alex Lasky, Tel. 02-235555.

OLD KATAMON, Arab house, 5, spacious, 2nd floor + large Sukkha balcony, \$380,000. Exclusive to SHIRAN with Ben Tzvi Realty, Tel. 02-630066.

OLD TALPIOT, 4, improved, 2nd floor, storeroom with lighting + balcony + view, \$280,000. Exclusive to SHIRAN with BEN TZVI Realty, Tel. 02-630066.

BEIT HAKEREM, 2, southern exposure + view + storeroom + balconies. Exclusive to LILY LEWIT, Tel. 02-639339.

BAKA, for young/investment, 3, 2nd floor, sunny + balconies. Exclusive to LILY LEWIT, Tel. 02-639339.

PALMAH, 4.5, impressive view, balcony, elevator, parking, modern conveniences, Tel. 02-611689.

MOTZA ILIT, detached villa, 5 + 5 + studio apt., 870 sq.m., plot, view, \$750,000. Exclusive to SHIRAN with ANGLO-SAXON MEVASSERET, Tel. 02-340088.

RAMAT SHARIT, 5, luxurious, modern, view, elevator, parking, storeroom, \$340,000. Exclusive to SHIRAN with ANGLO-SAXON, Tel. 02-251161.

EFRAAT, 3 + 3 balconies, 2nd floor, southern exposure, worth seeing, MIRIAM REALTY, Tel. 02-631633.

GERMAN COLONY, elegant, 3, 3rd floor, quiet, improved, \$240,000. Exclusive to SHIRAN with ZIV REALTY, Tel. 02-733332.

ABU TOR, penthouse, 3, wonderful, terraces, southern exposure, impressive view, modern, T.A.C., Tel. 02-631764.

GERMAN COLONY, luxurious duplex, penthouse, garden cottages, 200 sq.m., Exclusive to CORINNE DAVAR, Tel. 02-733385.

NEAR PLAZA HOTEL, 3.5 rooms, 7th floor, Steinberg Realty (Malden) Tel. 02-617756, NS.

The project you have been waiting for in Givat Sharett - Beit Shemesh

Exclusive for religious families, 3, 4.5 room apartments with gardens or balconies.

Special grants to olim and young couples

NO COMMISSION

Exclusive to: Shalom Lerner

Tel.: 02-913453, 02-917232

MALHA, luxurious villa, 8 rooms, balcony, 3 floors, garden, \$580,000. Tel. 02-782424.

GIVAT ORANIM, prestigious cottage, 4 levels, 5 rooms, come see it. Tel. 02-792921.

OLD TALPIOT, 4, spacious, 1st floor, nice quiet building, \$239,000. "IDAN" Tel. 02-734834/5.

KOVSHI KATAMON, 4 rooms, special, porch, storeroom, \$385,000. Tel. 02-252684, 02-785546, 02-619894.

RACHEL (MENU), 3 1/2, excellent location, 3rd fl., private heating, modern kitchen. Balcony + view. Tel. 02-660362.

GIVAT MORDEHAI, luxurious cottage, 6, covered parking, private entrance, storeroom, \$400,000. Tel. 02-787134 (NS).

REHAVIA, ground floor, 180 sq.m., balconies, high building standards, \$800,000. Tel. 02-634116.

UNIQUE ARAB STYLE HOUSE, 3 bedrooms + study. Exclusive NOMY REALTY, Tel. 02-619394.

TALBIEH, 3, special, view, terrace, worth seeing, renovated, keys at TOP REALTY, Tel. 02-234215.

habitat REAL ESTATE

BAKA - (GAD) EXCLUSIVE \$210,000

3 (70m), second floor, stone building, quiet, bright, needs work. INVESTMENT!

TALPIOT - (BEIT HOGLA) \$230,000

3 (75m), spacious, good condition, balcony, desirable location, immediate. EXCLUSIVE

REHAVIA - KEREN KAYEMET \$250,000

3 (65m), central yet quiet, balcony, private heating, MOVE IN CONDITION

OLD TALPIOT - EXCLUSIVE \$250,000

3 (90m), 2nd floor, bright, work room, stone building, GOOD CONDITION

BEIT HAKEREM - QUALITY APT \$335,000

4 (124m), 3 balconies, central heating, covered private parking, GOOD LOCATION

SHARON CHESS PLOT \$405,000

DESIGN & BUILD YOUR OWN EXCLUSIVE HOME IN THE OUTSTANDING JERUSALEM LOCATION

TALBIEH - EXCLUSIVE \$570,000

NEW PROJECT, 13m, perfect finishes, bright, private covered parking, pool, LUXURIOUS

REHAVIA - WOLFSON VILLA \$750,000

5 rooms, 2.5 bath, succa balcony, modern, high building standards, GOOD CONDITION

REHAVIA - MAGNIFICENT APARTMENT

5.5 rooms, unique location & view, balconies, pool, UNUSUAL ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

Wolfson shopping mall + Rehaviah Jerusalem Tel: 511222 Fax: 611176

KIRYAT SHMUEL (HARON ST.), 3, luxurious, view, quiet, \$230,000. Anglo-Saxon (Malden) Tel. 02-251161.

FRENCH HILL, (near Herta), 5 + basement, garden, parking, \$400,000. Anglo-Saxon (Malden) Tel. 02-251161.

BEIT HAKEREM (HARON ST.), 6 + huge balcony, terrace apt, private entrance, needs repair, only \$385,000. Keys at Danel Realty, Tel. 02-677222.

TALBIEH, quiet street near President's house, semi-detached house with building rights, Exclusive to AMBASSADOR, Tel. 02-618101.

KIRYAT SHMUEL, 4, prestigious, dining area, balconies, spectacular view, elevator, BEN ZVI, Tel. 02-630066.

HEART OF REHAVIA, 5, modern, open balcony, elevator, parking, BEN ZVI, Tel. 02-630066, 02-631654.

BARGAIN BAKA, 3, 1st floor, new, quiet, storeroom, parking, garden, \$210,000. Exclusive to SHIRAN through ANGLO-SAXON, Tel. 02-251161.

EFRAAT, Rimone, cottage, 5 1/2, 165 sq.m., closets, garden, excellent condition. Tel. 02-927755 (N.S.).

REHAVIA, 5, large garden, terrace (under construction), \$680,000. Anglo-Saxon (Malden) Tel. 02-251161.

SHAI AGNON, luxurious, 4.5, ground floor, 120 sq.m., storage room, parking, Anglo-Saxon (Malden) Tel. 02-251161.

REHAVIA, 5, 2nd floor, huge terrace, roof, \$485,000. Anglo-Saxon (Malden) Tel. 02-251161.

SHAI AGNON HESSED, 5.5, split-level, private entrance, option to build, view, \$365,000. Exclusive to SHIRAN with T.O.P. REALTY, Tel. 02-234215.

HATAYASSIM, 4 + 2, separate entrances, garden, parking, storage room, Anglo-Saxon (Malden) Tel. 02-251161.

ARONA (KOREI HADOROT), 5, new, huge, all conveniences, excellent buy. Exclusive to SHIRAN with NAKISS REALTY, Tel. 02-248248.

TALBIEH, 3, garden, beautiful, private, entrance, renovated, immediate occupancy, \$260,000. Anglo-Saxon (Malden) Tel. 02-251161.

TALBIEH (SOKOLOV), 3, ground floor, renovated, new, entrance to garden, sunny, \$249,000. Keys at LAFAYETTE REALTY, Tel. 02-668218 (MALDEN).

JEWISH QUARTER, excellent location, 400 sq.m. house (both residential and commercial). Exclusive to LILY LEWIT Tel. 02-639339.

JEWISH QUARTER VILLA, 11 + 300 sq.m., courtyard, roof with view, doors, unfinished, Tel. 02-691895.

RAMOT B, villa, luxury, 9 rooms, fireplace, garage, swimming pool, \$700,000. Tel. 02-631226.

MEVASSERET (NOF HARIM), cottage, 5, spacious living room, modern large + d-net kitchen, big basement, garden. Exclusive to SHIRAN with Anglo-Saxon, Tel. 02-334088.

MALCHA, 6 + studio (separate entrance), spacious, large garden, \$420,000. Exclusive to SHIRAN with ANGLO-SAXON (Malden), Tel. 02-251161.

BEIT HAKEREM (HARON ST.), 6 + huge balcony, terrace apt, private entrance, needs repair, only \$385,000. Keys at Danel Realty, Tel. 02-677222.

TALBIEH, quiet street near President's house, semi-detached house with building rights, Exclusive to AMBASSADOR, Tel. 02-618101.

KIRYAT SHMUEL, 4, prestigious, dining area, balconies, spectacular view, elevator, BEN ZVI, Tel. 02-630066.

HEART OF REHAVIA, 5, modern, open balcony, elevator, parking, BEN ZVI, Tel. 02-630066, 02-631654.

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REHAVIA, 5, 2nd floor, huge terrace, roof, \$485,000. Anglo-Saxon (Malden) Tel. 02-251161.

SPECIAL: luxury hotel, 2-room suite, hotel privileges, pool, income, rare opportunity, \$175,000. Exclusive Anglo-Saxon (Malden) Tel. 02-251161.

BEIT HAKEREM, 3.5, 1st floor, 90 sq.m., balconies, view, \$225,000. Exclusive to SHIRAN through ANGLO-SAXON, Tel. 02-251161.

RAMOT (MORGENTHAU), 4, 1st floor, view, storeroom, building rights, \$260,000. Exclusive to SHIRAN through ANGLO-SAXON, Tel. 02-251161.

BARGAIN: EIN KEREM, beautiful, 146 sq.m., balconies, roof, magnificent view, \$350,000. Exclusive to SHIRAN through ANGLO-SAXON, Tel. 02-251161.

MEVASSERET, semi-detached, 5 + 2 private entrances, garden, parking, \$385,000. Exclusive to SHIRAN through ANGLO-SAXON, Tel. 02-340088.

KIRYAT SHMUEL (near Theater), 4, exclusive building view, parking, \$420,000. Anglo-Saxon (Malden) Tel. 02-251161.

EIN KEREM, villa, Arab style, for renovation, building rights, magnificent view, \$420,000. Exclusive to SHIRAN with ANGLO-SAXON, Tel. 02-251161.

PRIVATE OWNER NERVE AVIVIM (Targi), 5, new, 3rd fl., luxurious, for quick decisions, Tel. 02-350002.

BAKA, 1 1/2 rooms, newly renovated, separate entrance, courtyard, \$88,000. Diplomat, Tel. 02-668229, 02-668238.

KIRYAT SHMUEL, HARON, 3 + 1 small, view, 3rd fl., terrace, \$240,000. Diplomat, Tel. 02-668229, 02-668238.

CLOSE TO PRESIDENT'S HOUSE, duplex, 6, quiet, garden, parking, Capital Tel. 02-794911.

KIRYAT SHMUEL, 4 (1 small), split, completely renovated, quiet, excellent location. Exclusive Ariv Realty Tel. 02-794544.

REHAVIA, for the discerning! 4 renovated, separate "parent's" unit, balconies, private heating, parking. Nadien Plus Tel. 02-514112 (Yochi).

FOR QUICK DECISIONS! German Colony, 2 rooms, new, private heating, parking. Nadien Plus Tel. 02-514112 (multiple lines).

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SYRIA

(Continued from Page One)

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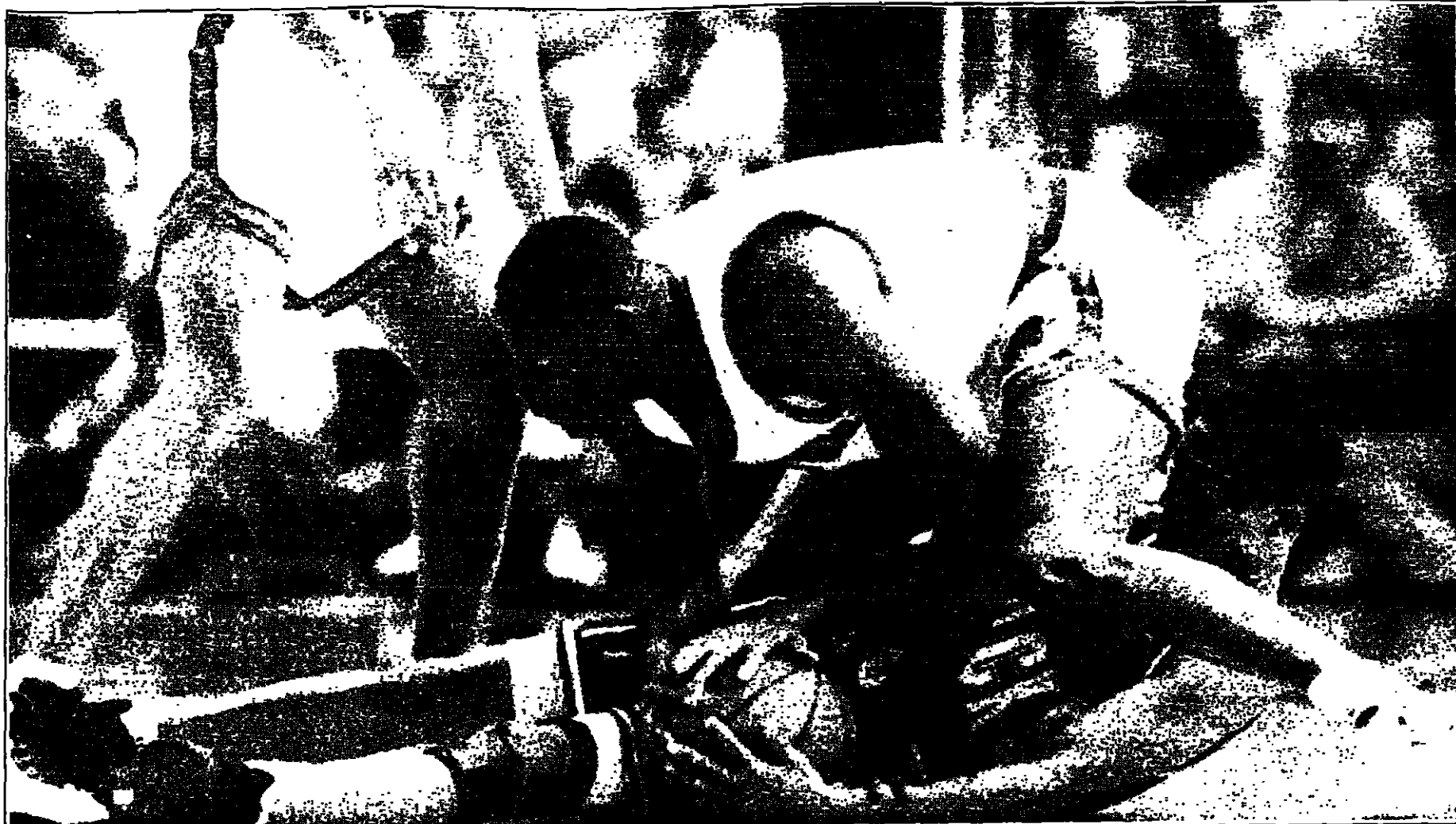
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BUCKING THE ODDS - The Knicks' Anthony Bonner tries to grab the ball away from a prone Eric Murdock during New York's surprising 95-87 loss to the Milwaukee Bucks Wednesday night at Madison Square Garden. (AP)

Hakeem ignites Rockets' victory over Kings

NEW YORK (AP) - Playing without their second-leading scorer didn't bother the Houston Rockets. That's because their No. 1 scorer, Hakeem Olajuwon, was at his best.

Olajuwon had 31 points and matched his season highs with 17 rebounds and eight blocks Wednesday night, leading the defending NBA champions to a 97-86 victory over the Kings at Sacramento.

It was Houston's first game since guard Vernon Maxwell was suspended for at least 10 games and fined \$20,000 for punching a heckler during Monday's loss at Portland.

"It definitely was a big win, especially with the circumstances around it," said Kenny Smith, who scored 17 points on 7-for-8 shooting for Houston. "We seem to play well in certain circumstances."

Mario Elie, who replaced Maxwell in the Rockets' starting lineup, had 13 points and six assists. But Olajuwon, last year's league MVP, was the main Rocket booster.

"They are undisciplined a little bit, but they came up big," said Kings coach Garry St. Jean. "What can I say about Hakeem, except that he was terrific."

Mitch Richmond scored 28 points for Sacramento, which heads into the All-Star break

with its first winning record (25-20) in 15 years.

Magic 110, Mavericks 92
Anfernee Hardaway scored 30 points and Shaquille O'Neal had 19 in three quarters as Orlando improved its home record to 23-1.

Orlando reached the All-Star break with a 37-10 record, best in the Eastern Conference. Dallas has lost 11 of its last 13 games. Jim Jackson and Jamal Mashburn, the NBA's highest scoring tandem, were held to a total of 19 before sitting out the fourth quarter.

Hornets 106, Pistons 78
Reserve Dell Curry scored 21 points as visiting Charlotte handed tired Detroit its worst loss of the season.

The Pistons were playing their third game in three days because of Tuesday's makeup game with Washington. Alonzo Mourning had 16 points and nine rebounds for the Hornets. Rafael Addison led Detroit with a career-high 25 points.

Celtics 75, Cavaliers 67
After scoring only 25 points in the first half, Boston came back to win the defensive duel.

Several records for low scoring were set in the game. The 67 points matched the fewest ever in a game by Cleveland, and both teams tied franchise marks for fewest points in a half. After Boston got only 25 in the first half, Cleveland scored only 27 in the second.

Heat 111, Bulls 107
Bimbo Coles tied a career high with 25 points and rookie Khalid Reeves hit a pair of 3-pointers in the final four minutes to help Miami beat visiting Washington.

Miami's Glen Rice scored 27 points. Rookie Juwan Howard scored a season-high 31 points for the Bulls, and Chris Webber added a season-high 26 points to go with 11 assists and eight rebounds.

Knicks 96, Pacers 77
Patrick Ewing had 24 points, a season-high 22 rebounds and five blocks as New York beat Indiana for the 12th time in their last 13 regular-season meetings.

John Starks also had 24 points, including five 3-pointers, for the visiting Knicks, who overcame an early 14-point deficit. Reggie Miller scored 22 points for Indiana, but was 7-of-17 from the field.

Hawks 111, Nets 88
Steve Smith scored a career-high 35 points, including five 3-pointers and 12-of-12 free throws, as Atlanta routed the short-handed New Jersey Nets.

The Nets played without leading scorer Derrick Coleman and Kenny Anderson, who are both injured. Armon Gilliam led the visiting Nets with 25 points and Chris Morris added 19.

Bucks 100, Timberwolves 93
Glenn Robinson scored 37 points, including 15-of-15 from the free-throw line, as Milwaukee won at home.

With the Bucks leading 81-80, Robinson and Minnesota's Doug West bumped into each other along the sideline as Minnesota brought the ball up the court. After both were whistled for taunting, Robinson sank the technical for the Bucks and Isaiah Rider for the Timberwolves. Todd Day, who scored 19 points, then increased the Bucks' margin to 87-81 with a layup and a 3-pointer.

Suns 108, Jazz 104
Danny Ainge scored 19 points and made two key steals as Phoenix won for the ninth time in 11 games.

John Stockton hit a 3-pointer with 37 seconds left to cut Phoenix's lead to two and the Jazz got the ball back with a chance to tie or win. But Karl Malone missed a 3-pointer and A.C. Green was fouled after grabbing the rebound for the Suns. Green made both free throws for the final margin.

Wesley Person scored 23 points for the Suns, while Malone had 30 points and 17 rebounds for Utah.

Blazers 116, Bulls 103
Clifford Robinson scored 28 points, including 22 in the second half, as Portland beat visiting Chicago.

Rod Strickland had 18 points and

10 assists for Portland. Scottie Pippen led the Bulls with 26 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists.

Lakers 115, Spurs 99
Anthony Peeler scored 14 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter as Los Angeles ended San Antonio's eight-game winning streak.

Vlade Divac had 25 points, 15 rebounds and eight assists for the Lakers, who won their third in a row without two-thirds of their starting frontcourt. Chuck Person led the Spurs with 24 points.

Spurs center David Robinson left the game with a mild sprain of his right ankle in the third quarter, and teammate Dennis Rodman was ejected in the fourth quarter after being called for a flagrant foul.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Orlando	27	10	.767	-
New York	20	16	.622	6.5
Boston	19	27	.413	17.5
New Jersey	19	31	.380	19.5
Miami	17	29	.370	21.5
Philadelphia	14	34	.292	23.5
Washington	11	34	.244	25

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Charlotte	31	17	.646	-
Cleveland	29	19	.604	2.5
Chicago	27	19	.587	3
Indiana	23	24	.489	7.5
Atlanta	22	25	.468	8
Milwaukee	19	29	.396	12
Detroit	17	29	.370	13

Wednesday's Games: Boston 75, Cleveland 67; Orlando 110, Dallas 92; Miami 111, Washington 107; Atlanta 111, New Jersey 88; Charlotte 106, Detroit 78; New York 96, Indiana 77; Milwaukee 100, Minnesota 93; Phoenix 108, Utah 104; Portland 116, Chicago 103; L.A. Lakers 115, San Antonio 99; Houston 97, Sacramento 86.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Utah	35	13	.729	-
San Antonio	32	15	.683	3.5
Denver	29	16	.644	4.5
Dallas	20	25	.444	13.5
Sacramento	18	26	.408	16
Minnesota	11	36	.234	23.5

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Phoenix	38	10	.792	-
Seattle	32	12	.727	4
L.A. Lakers	29	16	.644	7.5
Portland	25	20	.556	11.5
Sacramento	25	20	.556	11.5
Golden State	13	31	.296	23
L.A. Clippers	7	40	.148	30.5

Maxwell suspended for 10 games, fined \$20,000

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The National Basketball Association has come down hard on Vernon Maxwell, suspending the Houston Rockets guard for at least 10 games and fining him \$20,000 for punching a fan in the face during a game at Portland Memorial Coliseum.

The fine matches the highest in league history, while the suspension is the second-longest in the NBA, surpassed only by the suspension given Los Angeles Lakers forward Kermit Washington in 1977 which lasted more than half the season.

NBA Vice President of Operations Rod Thorn, who announced the fine and suspension late on Wednesday, labeled the punishment "unparalleled" during his stay with the league.

Maxwell will sit out at least 10 games, at which time a hearing will be held to determine if he

should be allowed to return to the Rockets.

His earliest return would be on February 28 at Dallas.

Steve George, a 35-year-old fan from Atlanta, said he was hit by Maxwell and would take legal action.

"Absolutely, I'm pressing charges," said George. "I was hit by an NBA player while sitting in row L, and I'm not happy."

The two fans told police they did not throw anything but admitted to yelling at Maxwell and using obscene gestures.

Witnesses said Maxwell and the fan exchanged verbal obscenities as the athlete was leaving the court at halftime.

Maxwell, who is known as "Mad Max" for his volatile behavior, was ejected, along with Horry and Rockets assistant coach Larry Smith, who also went into the stands to break up the fight.

Talks stalled, Congress still cool to baseball action

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Two leading Democrats yesterday urged Congress to act quickly to end the Major League Baseball strike but there was little support from other members of either party for intervention.

Meanwhile, negotiators for major league owners and players have left Washington after a week of futile bargaining with mediator Bill Uster and no new talks are scheduled with spring training camps due to open in a week.

Reps. David Bonior of Michigan and Pat Williams of Montana said at a news conference that the strike was hurting tens of thousands of workers at ball parks or nearby businesses.

"Every day this strike goes on, it doesn't just take bats out of the hands of players; it takes paychecks out of the hands of tens of thousands of working men and women who depend on baseball to put food on the table," Bonior said.

He said about 60,000 people worked at the 28 major league ballparks as ushers, vendors or in

other jobs and as many as 150,000 workers were affected by the strike.

But House Democratic leader Richard Gephardt of Missouri expressed coolness to President Clinton's legislation introduced Wednesday that would require binding arbitration to end the strike.

A Senate hearing on ending or weakening baseball's antitrust exemption is scheduled next week.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, both Republicans, said Wednesday they did not think Congress should get involved in the dispute now but would not rule out action at a later date. They urged further talks between striking players and team owners.

Spring training camps in Florida and Arizona are to open next week with replacement players and the two states are worried about large losses of revenue should fans who normally visit decide to stay home.

The regular season is due to start in April.

Strawberry pleads guilty to tax evasion

WHITE PLAINS, New York (Reuters) - Baseball slugger Darryl Strawberry pleaded guilty to one count of tax evasion in federal court yesterday and agreed to a three-month jail sentence.

Strawberry, suspended by Major League Baseball for 60 days and released by the San Francisco Giants Monday after two tests testing positive for cocaine, was charged with failing to report approximately \$344,000 in income from 1987-90. In his plea, Strawberry admitted that he earned hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash from autograph signing shows and personal appearances. Strawberry said he evaded payment of taxes by intentionally failing to report this income.

SCOREBOARD

FA CUP - Results of English F.A. Cup fourth round replays on Wednesday night: Chelsea 1, Millwall 1. (After extra time, 90 minutes: 1-1. Millwall won 5-4 on penalties.) Norwich 3, Coventry 1. (After extra time, 90 minutes: 1-1.) Southampton 6, Luton 0; Wolverhampton 1, Sheffield Wednesday 1. (After extra time, 90 minutes: 1-1. Wolverhampton won 4-3 on penalties.)

Revised draw for the fifth round of the English F.A. Cup after Wednesday's fourth round replays:

TODAY ON CABLE TV

CHANNEL 5
7:00 Bodies in motion
7:30 Bodies in motion
8:00 Bodies in motion
8:30 College basketball: Connecticut v St. John's

11:00 Israeli basketball highlights
12:00 Brazilian league soccer
13:00 College basketball
13:30 Spanish league soccer
15:00 WWF

16:00 WWF Royal Rumble
19:00 Israeli basketball magazine
19:30 Israeli soccer magazine
20:00 Bushido
20:30 European Cup basketball
22:00 European soccer magazine
23:00 English league soccer
00:00 College basketball

EUROSPORT
9:30 Leisure sport
10:00 Triathlon
11:30 Figure skating
13:30 Indoor Athletics
15:00 Snooker
16:00 Live golf
17:30 Live tennis from Dubai
21:00 Eurosport news
22:00 International motoring magazine
23:00 Boxing
00:00 WWF
1:00 Motoring magazine
2:00 Eurosport news

PRIME SPORT
6:00 Asian soccer
8:00 International motoring magazine
9:00 Cricket from India
10:00 European snooker
11:00 WWF
12:00 Asian soccer show
13:00 Snooker
13:30 NBA behind the scenes
14:00 NBA: Golden State v Denver
15:00 Asian soccer
17:00 WWF
19:00 WWF

20:00 Snooker
21:00 Snooker
21:30 NBA: Behind the scenes
22:00 NBA: Golden State v Denver
00:00 Snooker
2:00 Snooker

SATURDAY

CHANNEL 5
8:30 Table tennis
9:30 Spanish league soccer
11:00 World
11:30 English league soccer
12:30 European soccer magazine
13:30 Show jumping
14:00 Handball
15:00 Volleyball
16:00 Basketball: Connecticut v Providence
17:15 WWF Royal Rumble
20:00 Bushido
20:30 NBA
22:00 European Championship basketball
1:00 NBA

EUROSPORT
9:30 Snowboard
10:00 Live cross country skiing
15:30 Live speed skating
17:30 Live ATP tennis from Dubai
21:00 Golf
23:00 Live boxing
1:00 WWF
2:00 International motoring magazine

PRIME SPORTS
6:00 NBA: Golden State v Denver
8:00 Snooker
10:00 Show jumping
11:30 Swimming
13:00 European soccer show
14:00 WWF
15:00 Snooker
16:00 Go-karting
18:00 Swimming
20:00 European soccer show
21:00 WWF
22:00 Snooker

UEFA rewards England, Norway, Luxembourg for fair play

NYON, Switzerland (AP) - Italy, France, Germany and England have each been allotted four places in next season's UEFA Cup.

Italy, France and Germany earned the berths based on a points system that grades each country's club performances in various European competitions over the last five years.

England was awarded three berths based on the points system, but gained an extra spot because it was in the top three of UEFA's "fair play" ranking, which rewards "sportsmanlike conduct of players, officials and

spectators."

Norway and Luxembourg were the other two countries that gained a "fair play" berth. The top three were determined in October, before the latest incidents of fan and spectator violence in England.

Belgium, Spain, Portugal and Russia each will have three places in the next season's UEFA Cup.

Countries can gain extra berths by sending teams to the re-launched Intertoto Cup this summer. The four semifinalists from that tournament, to be played in June and July, also earn UEFA Cup spots.

Wasim Akram destroys Zimbabwe, gives Pakistan Test win in 3 days

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe (AP) - Fearsome bowling by Wasim Akram spelled disaster for Zimbabwe, giving Pakistan victory yesterday in the second cricket Test.

Pakistan then knocked off the 61 runs needed in the second innings to win by eight wickets with two days to spare in the five-day match at the Queens Sports Club.

Akram overall took eight wickets for 65, and in the process broke finger bones of two batsmen, Mark Dekker and David Houghton. Dekker will not be able to play in the final Test, which starts on Wednesday.

Zimbabwe were all out for 146 in their second innings, with only lower order batsman Stuart Carlisle offering any resistance, ending 46 not out.

Akram won the man of the match award.

Relations between the two sides have soured following repeated abuse and obscenities hurled at the Zimbabwe batsmen. Akram was the worst culprit, with his comments easily audible off the field. He was given a severe reprimand by match referee Jackie Hendricks of West Indies but escaped a fine.

"We are all very disappointed because we went to Australia with the intention of bringing the Ashes back home," captain Mike Atherton said after the plane touched down at Heathrow.

England never came close to reclaiming the Ashes, a trophy it

last won in 1987. It lost the five-Test series 3-1 to Australia, with one draw. All three losses, by any standard, were by huge margins and Australia simply outclassed England in every facet of the game.

England manager Keith Fletcher denied his job was under threat because of the poor results, and instead searched to find whatever bright spots he could think of.

"There's lots of things to en-

Nordiques' Ricci sinks Whalers, 3-2

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) - Mike Ricci broke a tie with the first of Quebec's two third-period, power-play goals and the Nordiques beat the Hartford Whalers 3-2 on Wednesday night.

With Paul Ranheim serving a penalty and the score tied 1-1, Ricci backhanded the rebound of Joe Sakic's shot from the left point past Sean Burke 8 minutes, 19 seconds into the third period.

Valeri Kamensky added another power-play goal for Quebec at 10:43, which ended up being the game-winner as Ranheim scored for Hartford with six minutes remaining.

Canadiens 4, Senators 2

At Ottawa, Brian Bellows continued his scoring streak with two goals for Montreal.

The veteran left-winger,

scoreless through Montreal's first six games, now has five goals in his last three starts.

Kirk Muller and Brian Fogarty also scored as Montreal recorded its first road win of the season and improved to 4-3-2 overall.

Rangers 5, Capitals 4

At New York, the Rangers won a battle of special teams as Brian Leetch scored a power-play goal with 4:19 left to beat Washington.

Leetch's game-winner, his first goal of the season, capped a Rangers rally that saw them come back twice from two-goal deficits and a one-goal deficit in the third.

Maple Leafs 3, Stars 3

At Toronto, Mats Sundin flipped the puck over sprawling goalie Andy Moog with 1.6 seconds left in regulation time

Local baseball, softball get int'l boost

Post Sports Staff

(softball) and Sam Pelter (baseball) attended the organizations' annual congresses. Litz said that Israel will send its national team to the European Men's Championships in Denmark in July. Nine teams have already entered the tournament.

Pelter registered Israel to participate in European Championships in three separate age groups this

summer, ages 10-12 in Italy, 13-15 in the Czech Republic and 16-18 in Austria. By participating in federation events for the first time, Israel will be able to combine national teams from all regions instead of being limited to regional championships as it was in Little League tournaments.

The local baseball and softball seasons begin in March and both organizations welcome new players, coaches and umpires.

squad, former captains Graham Gooch, 41, and Mike Gattling, 37, both announced their retirement from international cricket during the tour.

"From my point of view it has been very disappointing," Gooch said. "I went out there to try to do well and I didn't achieve the standard that I am used to."

It won't get any easier for England. This summer, the West Indies team arrives for a six-Test tour.

Fletcher did agree with Atherton that England needs to turn to younger players for the future.

"With the 'A' team doing well in India there are some good young players starting to develop," Fletcher said. "I don't know if there will be a great number of changes. It would be stupid to do a lot of drastic things. But we're going to sit down over the coming months and sort things out."

The two oldest players in the

courage me," Fletcher said. "There are people who have done well. (Graham) Thorpe's done well, (Graeme) Hick's done well and (Darren) Gough picked up 20 wickets in three Test matches."

Fletcher rebuffed Atherton's parting shot before leaving Australia that the England team was not "as united and focused as last year."

"There was no disunity as far as I was concerned," Fletcher

سكنا من الارض



Fresh swimmer Guy Delage triumphantly splashes to shore in southern Barbados, completing a solo trans-Atlantic journey yesterday. Delage began his 3,861-kilometer journey on December 16 from the Cape Verde Islands off Africa. (Reuters)

Lackluster Maccabi Tel Aviv outlasts Ljubljana, 86-79, setting up CSKA showdown

JOEL GORDIN

MACCABI Tel Aviv, hopeless on the rebounds and turning the ball over nine times in the first half, muddled through to beat Olimpija Ljubljana 86-79 in the Slovenian capital last night.

With the victory, Maccabi boosted its record to 7-5 and kept pace with CSKA Moscow, 92-75 winners over hosts Scavolini Pesaro on Wednesday night.

The scene is now set for a showdown on Thursday in Russia against CSKA for the fourth and final quarter-final spot from group A.

Maccabi started well last night, two early three-pointers from Doron Jamchee bounding the Israelis into a 18-14 lead. Then Maccabi turned the ball over five times in a row and the Slovenians took advantage to come back to a 23-21 lead.

Maccabi also showed the shape of things to come by losing vital defensive rebounds and giving their opponents second and even third attempts at the net. Maccabi also had problems defending Ljubljana's American, big Antony Reed, who at one stage hit six in a row. However, before the break Morris Coleman found his shooting hand and also sank six in succession to keep the visitors in the game.

Just before the half-time buzzer, with the score tied at 45-45, Jamchee hit his third three-pointer and the Maccabeans went to the locker room a satisfactory 48-45 ahead, considering they had turned the ball over nine times to Ljubljana's once.

The entire second half was marked by the inability of Maccabi players to pull down the rebounds under their own baskets, thus giving the Slovenians repeated opportunities to make up for shooting mistakes. Luckily, Ljubljana's front line wasn't very good.

Against a more formidable squad - CSKA for starters - Maccabi would have paid dearly for the apathy under the boards. At any rate, some good opportunistic work by Nadav Henefeld and solid shooting by Coleman and Curcic kept Maccabi in the picture until the last minute, when the Israelis led 79-77.

Coleman hit the front end of a one-and-one to make it 80-77. Motti Daniel fouled Marko Milic and he was on target with both ends of his shots, making it 80-79. With the crowd on its feet, the Maccabi players worked out a coordinated attack and Jam-

chee banged in a vital two points to up the lead to 82-79.

In desperation, the Slovenians sent Jamchee to the foul line and he made it 84-79. In the last second, Coleman dunked in the clincher to make it 86-79.

Maccabi showed fighting spirit at the end, and kept cool under pressure. Nevertheless, they did not impress against a lackluster team and if they want to win in Moscow, they'll need to polish up on the rebounds - and practice catching the ball.

Coleman was top scorer with 20, while Jamchee had 17 (four three-pointers), Curcic 17, and Henefeld 17. The latter was the top rebounder (14) and did sterling defensive work on Roman Horvatic, forcing him to foul out with only 10 points. Ljubljana deserves credit for its fighting performance, even though it has no chance to make the next round.

Reed was the top scorer, and scored on some dunks which would have done credit to Michael Jordan. Young Boris Corenc was hot in the first half, but faded later. Vitaly Nassov and Dusan Hauptman missed many chances to capitalize on Maccabi's lack of fire under the boards.

Mac. TA, Haifa set for Match of Season

ORI LEWIS

MACCABI Haifa travel to the National Stadium in Ramat Gan tomorrow evening for the main match of the 18th round of National League in a match which could go a long way towards determining the outcome of the championship.

The clash, between Israel's two top club sides over the past several seasons, should prove to be another thrilling contest, with Haifa, five points adrift of leaders Tel Aviv, desperately needing to win - or at least to deny the Tel Avivians the luxury of winning in order to stay in touch.

If things go according to last season's form, then the crowd

that turns out to watch the televised match at 6 p.m. will be in for a high-class contest that will have all that's good in Israeli soccer, and probably some of what is bad.

The first meeting between the two sides this season ended in a goalless draw.

In the 93-94 season, two matches were drawn 1-1 and Haifa won the other contest 5-0. But there were also five sendings-off, and the horrendous injury sustained by Haifa defender Roman Petz. He suffered a broken leg that put him out of action until

well into the current season.

Petz is out injured for Haifa in tomorrow's clash, as is Moshe Glan, who is serving a one-match suspension. Tel Aviv will be missing Eli Driks, who is also suspended.

In other matches of interest this weekend, second-placed Hapoel Petah Tikva face Maccabi Petah Tikva in a local derby. Hapoel are just two points behind Maccabi Tel Aviv.

Betar Jerusalem, hoping to right their ship after the 4-2 drubbing by Bnei Yehuda last week, will be wanting to take out their

aggressions on Ironi Rishon, and Hapoel Haifa, under the guidance of new coach Viko Hadad will also want to put the past behind them and start their new era with a win over visiting Bnei Yehuda.

This weekend's National League action (all matches tomorrow, kickoff 15:00 unless stated. First-round results in brackets):

Betar Tel Aviv v Ironi Ashdod, National Stadium (1-0); Hapoel Beersheva v Maccabi Netanya, Beersheva (2-3); Maccabi Tel Aviv v Maccabi Haifa, National Stadium (0-0); Hapoel Beersheva v Hapoel Petah Tikva, Petah Tikva (0-2); Maccabi Herzliya v Zefirum Holon, Herzliya (0-2); Hapoel Be'er Sheva v Hapoel Tel Aviv, Be'er Sheva (1-1); Hapoel Haifa v Bnei Yehuda, Kiryat Eliezer (1-2); Betar Jerusalem v Zefirum Holon, Teddy Stadium (0-1).

Nineteen fans charged in riot at Chelsea

LONDON (AP) - Fan violence is haunting English soccer once again.

Nineteen fans were charged yesterday in connection with a rampage following the FA Cup game between London rivals Chelsea and Millwall.

Eleven police officers were injured in the melee Wednesday night at Chelsea's Stamford Bridge ground.

"I hope we are not going back to the hooligan-dominated days of a decade or so ago," Football Association chief executive Graham Kelly said.

The trouble broke out immediately following the game, which ended with First Division club Millwall eliminating the Premier League team 5-4 in a penalty shootout.

A large number of fans invaded the field, with Chelsea and Millwall supporters fighting each other. Two dozen mounted police, as well as officers with riot sticks, massed across the field to keep the fans apart.

Millwall's Australian striker, Dave Mitchell, was pushed to the ground and spat on by one of the invading Chelsea fans.

Caught in the middle of the action was Millwall's American goalkeeper Kasey Keller, who sealed the victory with a diving save on the last penalty by Chelsea's John Spencer.

Further clashes between fans and police continued outside the stadium. Several cars parked in the area were damaged.

Thirty-eight fans were rounded up. Of those, 13



Mounted police move onto the Stamford Bridge pitch on Wednesday as Chelsea and Millwall supporters clashed. Millwall won the FA Cup fourth round replay 5-4 on penalties. (AP)

Chelsea fans and six Millwall supporters were charged with various public order offenses. They were released on bail and ordered to appear in court next month.

Scotland Yard said one police officer required hospital treatment for neck injuries and another needed four stitches for a head wound. Nine other officers suffered minor injuries, including cuts and sprains.

The FA launched an investigation into the incidents.

Chelsea officials urged fans to identify those responsible for the violence and said anyone caught will be banned from Stamford Bridge.

Fences at English football grounds were ripped down after the 1989 Hillsborough tragedy in which nearly 100 fans were crushed to death at the Sheffield stadium.

SPORTS BRIEFS

5 athletes suspended for doping
MONACO (Reuters) - Five athletes, including American discus thrower Michael Gravelle and heptathlete Gea Johnson, have been suspended after positive drugs tests, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) confirmed yesterday.

The others are Jamaican sprinter Aston Morgan, who is applying for US citizenship, Lithuanian Dalia Matuseviciene and Freddy Fernando Caiza of Ecuador. All except Morgan were caught in out-of-competition testing and all face possible four-year bans.

National winner Burke dies at 41
LONDON (Reuters) - Jockey John Burke, the last man to ride the Cheltenham Gold Cup and Grand National winners in the same year, has died from a heart attack. He was 41.

Burke won the 1976 Gold Cup on Royal Frolic and the following month partnered Rag Trade to success at Aintree.

Mansell nightmare plot for Williams
LONDON (Reuters) - Frank Williams, boss of the Williams Grand Prix team, said yesterday his greatest nightmare was to see Nigel Mansell winning races and the world championship going to rivals McLaren.

The Williams team owner told a group of British journalists he feared his decision to overlook Mansell and appoint instead another Briton, David Coulthard, as his No. 2 driver could return to haunt him.

Coulthard, 23, won Williams's verdict to be Briton Damon Hill's team mate ahead of 41-year-old Mansell last month.

Williams said: "One of my nightmares is seeing Nigel destroying everyone all year. Then we would all look like a bunch of idiots."

"There's no reason why he and McLaren

shouldn't win the first race. It is going to be very competitive and we are all starting from zero again."

Jones to win 50th Welsh cap
CARDIFF (Reuters) - Swansea scrum half Robert Jones will become only the third Welshman to top 50 caps for his country when he plays against England at Cardiff Arms Park on February 18.

Jones will join JPR Williams and Gareth Edwards in the exclusive "50 club" as Wales attempt to stop England taking a third step towards a Five Nations grand slam.

The Welsh team announced on Thursday showed five changes to the one beaten 21-9 by France last month.

Back from injury are wing Iwan Evans, who reclaims the captaincy, centre Nigel Davies, flanker Hemi Taylor and number eight Emyr Lewis.

Cardiff prop Mike Griffiths, who came on as a replacement for broken leg victim Ricky Evans in Paris, keeps his place in the front row.

Dropped are Simon Hill, Mark Taylor, Stuart Davies and Phil Davies.

Fake rugby World Cup souvenirs
JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - South African police warned yesterday that large quantities of fake rugby union World Cup souvenirs had arrived in the country three months ahead of the 16-nation tournament.

Lieutenant Jan Combrinck said they included beer mugs, T-shirts and flags with fake trade marks.

He warned members of the public to be on the lookout for fake goods and said dealers risked having their stock confiscated and a heavy fine imposed.

Thanks for everything, but perhaps its time we say goodbye, George

MAYBE, just maybe, George Graham is right and our miserable plight and endless torment, otherwise known as the 1994-1995 season, is nothing but a test, a divine challenge, a philosophical call to arms.

A test of will, character, dedication, loyalty and love.

But, George, you know as well as I do that a man's football team is probably the most monogamous relationship he will ever have. These bonds are religious.

Can a man conceivably wake up one day and from the depths of despair and a quest for a simpler, emotionally gentler life and consciously decide that he no longer supports Arsenal? Or in sound mind shift allegiance to, say, Chelsea?

You know that's impossible. So why must you get in trouble for - of all the players in the world - John Jensen? Why did you sell Anders Limpar for the god's sake? Are you waiting for the year 2000 to announce that Kevin Campbell is not exactly the quintessential striker you, and we, hoped he would be?

Emotionally, financially, and mental-

ly we have endured tests before. In case you forgot, George, before you came we had won only one FA cup, since you left the historic 1970-71 double title team.

Need I remind you that in the mid 1970's we proudly occupied the 17th place, saved from a real relegation scare only after an illustrious 6-1 thrashing of West Ham?

Being a supporter means total commitment, rain or shine. You have been a player and a manager, George. We have been supporters. So maybe you just don't understand what you are putting us through.

There are no mitigating circumstances here, no allowances. It's perseverance, endurance, courage. Self-deprecation is as far as it goes - and only amongst us loyal supporters.

It's all about a passion so strong that self-proclaimed "normal people" seem irrational to us. And anyway, they associate one with the team, especially when they lose, so one rarely has the patience to explain.

Any time we manage an effort to cool off the affair with the team - by living far away in Washington for instance -

Arsenal supporters the world over are not having an easy time at the moment, Alon Pinkas laments their plight

we invariably break down on the whimper of a new signing that sparks optimism. Or when the lads actually win twice in succession.

It's then we run to buy the *Guardian*, re-acquaint ourselves with the BBC World Service. And once again we swallow the abuse of the unfortunate envious who call us lucky, boring and other derogatory (for us complimentary) names.

For years, week in and week out, our mental health and mood are defined by Arsenal's results. It means constant anxiety and gallons of cold sweat slowly running down the back and onto the palms. Not talking to the wife for two hours on Saturday afternoon. On Arsenal's current performance, maybe not till Tuesday.

This is the wife that vows never to go to London with her husband again, just because he manages to drag her to Highbury by describing the place as a shrine, telling her it's the most important thing in his life, that she must share it at least once, that she will love the magnificent art-deco on the east upper-tier.

All true, she admits. And it's even OK that you hardly said a word to me since we got off at the Arsenal tube station. I even enjoyed the game.

But why must you embarrass me in front of 38,500 people by screaming at a certain man from Denmark you don't even know and at another called Kevin? Must you threaten to sexually molest their wives? Why haven't you ever smiled at me the way you did when Ian Wright took the field?

And you want to tell me you to do

this every year? Even when they lead 3-0 you have breathing problems. Grow up, or get professional help, she says. What's wrong with supporting QPR? she asks. No aspirations, nice jerseys.

See what I mean about monogamy, George?

In the past, pain bore fruit. Any real Arsenal supporter knows exactly where he was, and in precisely what clinical state of mind, in the 90th minute of the Liverpool-Arsenal 1989, the last game of that season. Most of us out-sweat Michael Thomas on his way to glory.

I was living in Washington, shaking and shivering, listening to the BBC. It was the closest I had ever been to cardiac arrest. Unless I count the first seizure in the 88th minute of the 1979 FA Cup final, when Manchester United equalized, until two minutes later, when that magical Liam Brady foray ended with Alan Sunderland's glide, rescuing me.

Theologically, I was in Liverpool in 1989. In the same way I was at Wembley on a sunny May afternoon in 1993 when, in the last second of extra time play, Andy Linighan caused havoc in the middle of Beijing. That's where, merely

physically, I was standing and screaming into a cellular phone at a friend in London on the other end who described play by play the glorious corner kick.

Yes, George, those were the best of times. You gave the North Bank regulars, wherever they may be registered as residents, more than a fair share of pride and honors. And for that, we are eternally indebted.

So maybe we have become greedy? Since George arrived we had won the League championship twice, the League Cup twice, the FA Cup and the European Cup Winners Cup. No other team achieved half that. Certainly not that other team from North London whose miserable claim to fame is a championship win that historically coincided with John F. Kennedy's election as president.

But maybe, just maybe, George, you have run out of ideas. Your life span as a manager may be exhausted. Maybe, George, it just may be time to say our goodbyes.

What I mean is - it's you that has to go.

We supporters, we have no alternative but to stay.

**DON'T
MISS!
EVERY
WEDNESDAY**



**Father of
newborn
run down
outside of
hospital**

A FEW hours after the birth of his first child, a daughter, on Wednesday, Idan Ovadia, 33, left Kfar Sava's Meir Hospital to get the clothes he had packed for his wife, Ayelet, 23, from their car. As he was crossing the street, a car sped through the red light, hit him, dragged him 30 meters, and sped off. Ovadia died of his injuries.

Yesterday, Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court Judge Yehuda Farago remanded Ala Mansur, 18, of Tira, the alleged hit-and-run driver, and Abdel Khader Issa, 18, of Taiba, a passenger, for 10 days. Another passenger, Ala Ra'ed, also of Taiba, was remanded for six days.

According to police, Mansur had stolen the car from the parking lot of Kfar Sava Magistrate's Court, picked up his two friends, and started driving wildly toward Tira. He does not have a driver's license.

Police said they intend to seek an indictment while the three are in remand, and to recommend they be held until trial. (Iim)

**Teacher notices
pregnancy of
11 year old;
police hunt
young rapist**
Jerusalem Post Staff

POLICE are searching for a minor believed to have raped an 11-year-old girl from the Sharon region seven months ago. The girl was unaware she was pregnant until her condition raised a teacher's suspicions.

Another boy who allegedly introduced the rapist to the girl was remanded in juvenile court yesterday.

Sources close to the case said a teacher noticed the girl appeared to be pregnant and sent her for blood tests, which confirmed she was in a late stage of pregnancy.

The girl told investigators that a youth had forced her to have sex. The late stage of the pregnancy makes it impossible to carry out an abortion, the sources said.

**Sagis appointed
new head of IDF
Logistics Branch**

BRIG-GEN. Amiaz Sagis will be appointed head of the IDF's Logistics Branch and promoted to major-general. The appointment and promotion will take effect in three months.

Sagis, who has been OC Ordnance Corps for the last three years, will replace Maj.-Gen. Shalom Hagai, who is retiring from active service.

Sagis, 47, is a graduate of the Technion's Mechanical Engineering Faculty and has a master's degree in political science from Haifa University. He is also a graduate of the IDF National Security College.

Sagis joined the IDF in 1966, and served in the Ordnance Corps throughout his career.

He will be succeeded as OC Ordnance by Col. Michael Davan, who will be promoted to brigadier-general.

Two killed in crash

TWO persons were killed yesterday morning in an accident on the Afula-Kfar Tavor road. Ayelet Guari, 26, of Afula and Meir Kadosh, 22, of Tiberias died when their car crashed into a tree and overturned. (Iim)

Senior 'Ma'ariv' man held in bugging probe

RAINE MARCUS

MA'ARIV and Hachsharat Hayishuv security head David Ronen, 67, suspected of illegal wiretapping and disrupting a police investigation, was remanded for four days by Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Newspaper publishers and employees, private investigators, and a defense lawyer have repeatedly been summoned for questioning, but Ronen's arrest emphasizes police determination to find out who commissioned the wide-scale wiretapping and bring him to trial, police sources said yesterday.

Ronen's boss, Ofer Nimrod, was interrogated, under caution, for the third day running yesterday.

Police sources said Ronen's remand is just the "tip of the iceberg."

"Now the investigation is really starting," said one senior officer. "We simply don't want to show all our cards at the moment, to prevent those being investigated from knowing exactly what evidence we have against them."

Police are concentrating on two aspects of the wiretapping affair, which involves the bugging of phones, mobile phones, and faxes of politicians, businessmen, and media personnel. Private investigators Rafi Friedman and Ya'acov Tsur are awaiting trial in the case.

New developments have led detectives to investigate allegations that the phones of Ma'ariv employees, including journalists, were tapped.

Ronen, a former senior GSS officer, was arrested Tuesday at Ben-Gurion Airport upon his return from London. He was last questioned, under caution, about six months ago.

Police requested a six-day remand to en-

able police to continue the complex investigation without disturbance.

But Ronen's lawyer, Shuki Stein, argued that allegations do not warrant his client's detention.

Ronen was ostensibly arrested for his alleged involvement in commissioning private investigators Yisrael Shabam and Mordechai Podim to bug the phone of Ya'acov Kedmi, former Ma'ariv marketing director.

Friedman and Tsur were charged several months ago with tapping Kedmi's phone.

Shabam and Podim were interrogated over the past few days, and their versions of events were compared with those of Ronen and Nimrod. Police staged confrontations between them and Ronen and Nimrod.

Supt. Tzahi Hefetz told the court that Ronen was also being questioned about allegedly paying a Bezek employee, Baruch Rubinstein, to point out which lines in a junction box to tap. Rubinstein was arrested along with Shabam and Podim last November, after the latter two allegedly tapped the phone of Ma'ariv journalist Amnon Abrahamovitch.

Hefetz' argument that Ronen tried to disrupt the police investigation by warning Kedmi that his phone was tapped was rebutted by Stein, who said that since tapping a phone is only a misdemeanor, there is no legal obligation to report it to police.

Hefetz refused to answer most of Stein's requests to elaborate, instead giving confidential information to Judge Nira Daskin.

Ronen said his arrest does not worry him unduly.

"In this case, the police also want to make headlines," he said.



David Ronen, 67, who was remanded yesterday in the investigation of illegal wiretapping. (Aron Ron/Israel Sun-Courtesy of 'Yediot Aharanot')

Pleasant weekend forecast; work planned to avoid future flooding of Fureidis

DAVID RUDGE

EXTENSIVE work is planned along parts of Nahal Dalia to prevent future flooding of Fureidis, after part of the village was swamped and scores of residents had to be evacuated Wednesday.

Interior Ministry Director-General Amram Kalaji, Water Commissioner Gideon Tsur, and Public Works Department director-general Ben-Zion Salman have agreed on a series of measures which they hope will resolve the problem.

These include removing all obstacles along the river bed, from where it flows past the village and under the old Haifa-to-Hadera road to the coastal highway and into the sea. This work is to be carried out by the Water Commission.

The PWD will be responsible for building bridges where the river runs under the two roads, and the Interior Ministry will tackle the problem of drainage in the village itself.

It was further agreed that the Ports and Railways Authority would be responsible for preventing obstructions at the point where the river flows under the main Haifa-to-Tel Aviv track before reaching the sea.

The total cost of the proposals, however, could run high as \$10 million and it was not clear yesterday where the funding would come from.

Nevertheless, the plans were welcomed by residents of Fureidis. Local Council Chairman Abed Muasi said that this time -

the village had previously been flooded in December 1991 - the matter could not be ignored.

"I'm sure that this time the authorities, the ministers and the directors-general are serious and will deal with the matter accordingly," said Muasi.

The full extent of the damage was revealed yesterday after the floodwaters subsided. Piles of debris, sodden furniture and household appliances, including a refrigerator, lay strewn in the fields.

The local council distributed hundreds of beds, mattresses, and blankets from emergency stores to residents, many of

whom had to sleep at the homes of friends or relatives on Wednesday night.

"The damage to property, including furniture, and household appliances, like televisions and electrical equipment, is extensive and all together is likely to run into hundreds of thousands of shekels," said Muasi, who spend most of yesterday visiting the scores of affected homes.

The storms, which died out yesterday, dumped several meters of snow on Mt. Hermon and raised the level of water in the Kinneret so rapidly that the Deganya sluice gates had to be opened to prevent the lake from overflowing.

Mekorot officials said the sluice gates would remain open in

accordance with the flow into the lake from the Jordan River and its tributaries.

The Hermon ski site was opened yesterday, despite intermittent light snowfall. Site manager Eli Sagron said he hopes the accumulation of snow, reaching a depth of two meters on the lower slopes and as much as four meters on the peak, would be sufficient to last for several weeks. Thousands of people are expected to visit the site over the weekend.

The forecast is for dry and warmer conditions from today through at least Sunday.

Jerusalem District Court Judge Shalom Brenner asked Dinitz why he returned the money for the trip if he was not required to do so. Because, he said, the press had been full of criticism of agency officials' wasting money.

The defense also noted that the Dinitzes had paid out of their own pockets when they hosted notables on agency matters, without asking for their money back. In one instance, they hosted 28 people in a gathering to honor the US ambassador to Switzerland, with Dinitz paying NIS 2,031 and getting back only NIS 251. (Iim)

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